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stylish living

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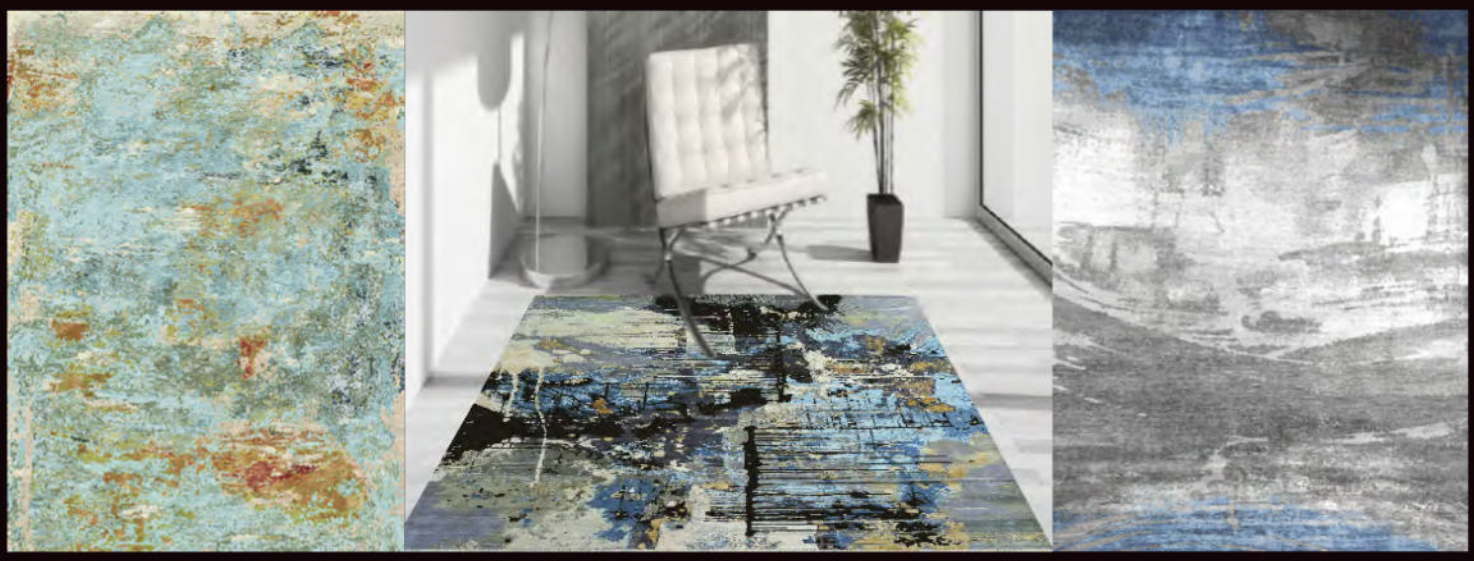

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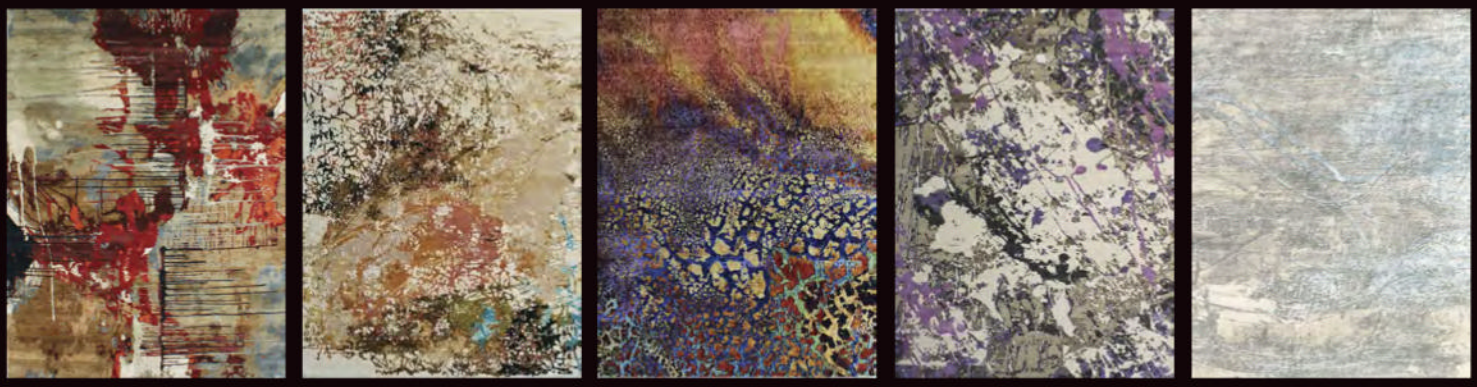

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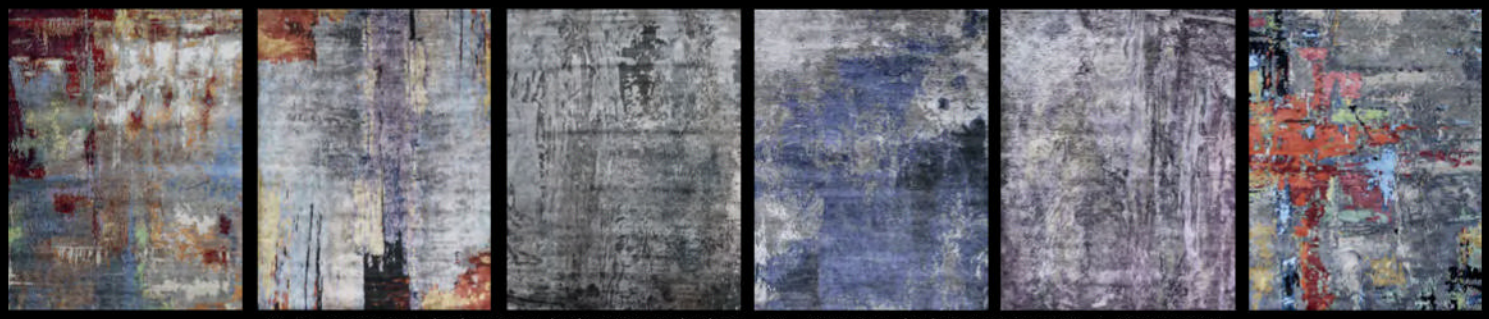

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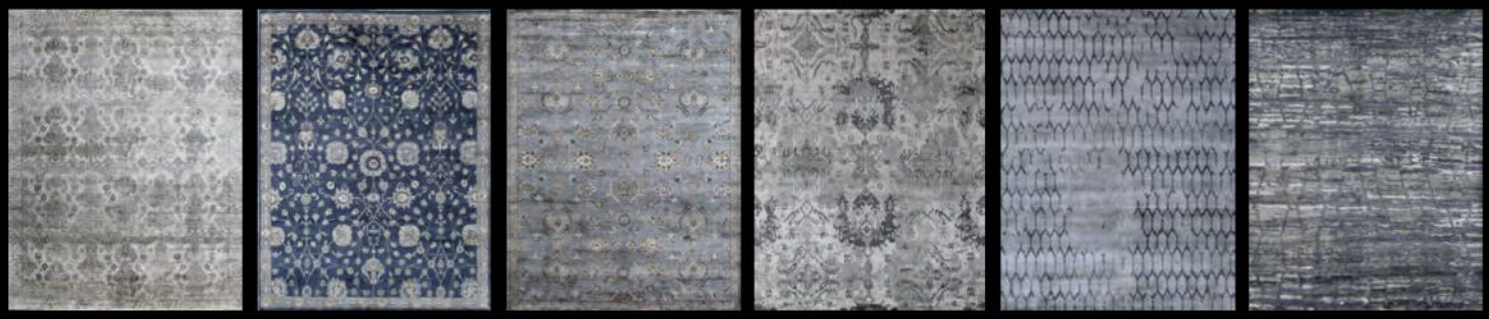

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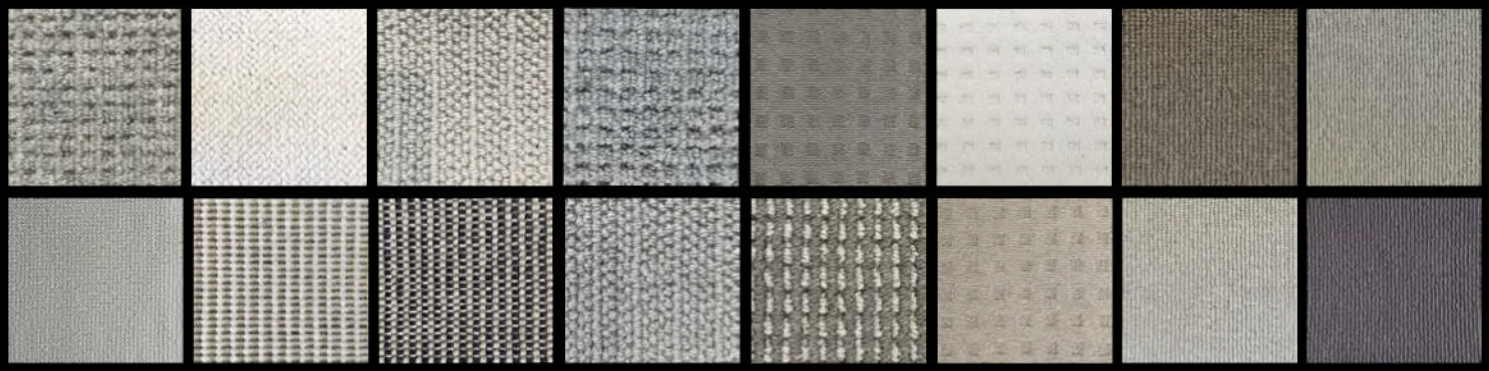

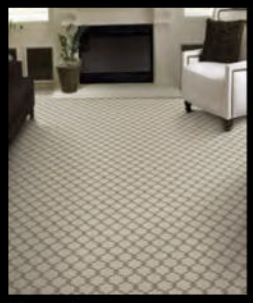

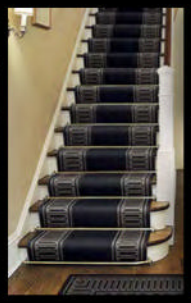

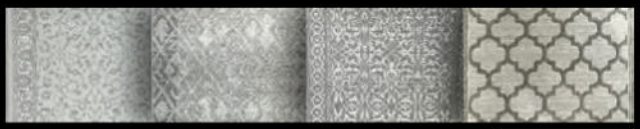

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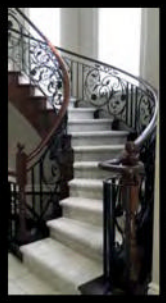

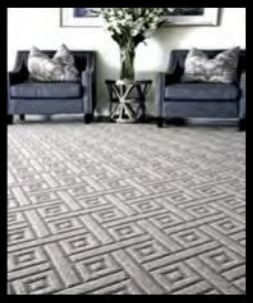

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The Astin Sofa.

Not pictured:

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styleathome JUNE 2016

Maximize the top of your dresser by transforming it into a stylish primping station.

HOMES

84 ACCENT WITH COLOUR
An Alberta couple transforms a neglected farmhouse into a dream home for their family

92 LAYER WITH TEXTURE
Vancouver designer Joanna Vagelatos uses tons of texture to update a spacious abode

100 PLAY UP PATTERN
A mix of juicy prints and vivid hues ensures there's never a dull moment in this Victorian home

COLUMNS

21 STYLE NEWS
The best home decor products, the hottest trends and the most inspiring ideas

26 TRENDSPOTTING
Welcome summer into your space with bold blue florals

28 HOUSEKEEPING
Learn how to keep towels looking and smelling fresh

30 FOOD NEWS
The latest and greatest gourmet products, kitchen gadgets and more

32 DESSERT OF THE MONTH
A refreshing frozen berry pudding bombe

36 DECORATING 101
White is used right in this modern media room

40 RENO OF THE MONTH
A dark and dated ensuite gets a glamorous update

48 HIGH OR LOW
We designed a pretty patio on budgets both palatial and petite. Can you tell the difference?

Wake up your front yard with a show of vibrant blooms, such as purple hebes.

DECORATING

59 JACK & JILL
How a lifestyle blogger perfected a stylish gender-neutral nursery

62 IN THE OPEN
Eight brilliant rules for decorating an open-concept space

68 CONCRETE JUNGLE
A compelling contrast of textures brings this verdant front yard to life

74 FASHION FORWARD
A fashionista's walk-in closet gets a much-needed makeover

FOOD

106 MILK MADE
These recipes from *The Farmette Cookbook* will solidify your love for all things created with pure dairy ingredients

REGULARS

FROM OUR EDITOR 14
GET SOCIAL 16
WORKBOOK 112
DESIGN PINSPIRATION 114

TABLET EDITION
Get *Style at Home* for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
With a soothing neutral palette and cozy textures, this backyard lounge area brings the indoors out **92**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Janis Nicolay

†Based on automotive awards for minivans 1984 through 2014. ²Based on the latest available competitive information and the WardsAuto Small Van segment (passenger vans only). Based on 2016 model year vehicles only. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. *As good as 13.7 L/100 km (21 MPG) city and 9.4 L/100 km (30 MPG) highway rating. Based on 2016 EnerGuide fuel consumption ratings. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Use for comparison purposes only. Ask your retailer for EnerGuide information.

living OUT LOUD

What makes a room *really* come alive? In the design world, the answer invariably involves some combination of the decorating trifecta: colour, pattern and texture. The perfect colour palette, combined with light and architecture, can make a space hum, sing out loud or, sadly, if the mix isn't right, silence it altogether. Pattern has the power to "lift" elements in an interior that would otherwise fall flat. When wielded with a skilled hand, pattern can provide contrast and interest, and allows the eye to move pleasingly around the room. Texture is the subtle player in this trio – it often makes a quiet statement that adds an interlude of shadow and light, softness and roughness to a room's surfaces. When textures mingle harmoniously, the result is a serene home full of comfort, class, dimension and depth.

This issue, we're celebrating these fundamental elements of design and have dedicated our pages accordingly. Our feature homes have successfully used our three tenets of decorating: from a neutral farmhouse livened up with bold blue accents to a dreamy all-white abode layered with tactile touches to a Palm Beach-inspired interior outfitted with playful prints. We've also rounded up the best whimsical wallpapers, the season's hottest blue floral products and this summer's must-have outdoor essentials. If colour, pattern and texture are the ingredients for a beautifully appointed space, then this issue is the perfect recipe for stylish living. We hope you're as inspired as we are.

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

@erinmclaughlin1
instagram.com/styleathomeeditor

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COLOUR **HAPPY**

Each month, I look forward to reading the inspirational articles featured in *Style at Home*. The "Blooming Balconies" story (May 2016, page 42) beautifully demonstrates how colour can enhance a small space. I totally agree with decorator Tim Lam's view on using a balcony as an extension of your living room. I'm currently in the process of downsizing and will keep his tips in mind when designing my new space. Thank you for helping keep my creativity alive.

ROBERTA KELLY, GLACE BAY, NS

LASTING **IMPRESSION**

I have subscribed to *Style at Home* for many years and have watched it evolve and maintain relevance. My house is beautiful, and I owe it to the many tips and must-try projects presented in the magazine. My most recent success was the transformation of my family room. I took ideas from various issues to create a space that's brilliant, edgy and homey.

CONSTANCE PALENIK, WATERLOO, ON

TAKING **CHANCES**

I love receiving *Style at Home* each month (it's like finding a little present in my mailbox!). I've been nervously tiptoeing toward a kitchen renovation, and the magazine has supplied me with many wonderful ideas – from design styles and layout options to fixtures and appliances. Best of all, however, is the confidence it's given me to actually go for it. Thanks for the inspiration.

VIRGINIA KUZ, VIA EMAIL

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Editor-in-Chief Erin McLaughlin
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ROYAL TREAT

The blue of the wall paint and drapery fabric may not be royal, but against the lavender rug and white furniture, it gives off a distinctly regal quality.

PAINT PALETTE OF THE MONTH

BARONDALE BLUE
10BG 39/219, Dulux Paints, dulux.ca.

MYSTICAL GRAPE
2071-30, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Beauti-Tone **HERE COMES THE BRIDE** WB001-0, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca.

CRUISING SW 6782, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

DESIGN, AMIE CORLEY INTERIORS, AMIECORLEY.COM; PHOTOGRAPHY, ASHLEY GIESEKING

Brass Branch **CHANDELIER,** $2,975, Lightmaker Studio, lightmakerstudio.com.

LIGHT BULB MOMENT

If you're seeking great statement lighting, there's no need to look far. **FROM COAST TO COAST, TALENTED CANADIAN MAKERS ARE CREATING ILLUMINATING DESIGNS.** We can't get enough of the customizable Branch chandelier from Toronto-based Lightmaker Studio, which has both industrial and organic appeal, and Winnipeg's Gagan Design has also caught our eye with its chic linear task lamp.

Opulux brass Dome **TASK LAMP** with white marble base, $325 US, Gagan Design, gagandesign.etsy.com.

Alessi Tonale stoneware **VASES,** 7", $147, 13", $170, Bergo Designs, bergo.ca.

VERSATILE VASES

THEY'RE A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY, A LITTLE BIT ROCK 'N' ROLL – IN FACT, WITH SUCH STREAMLINED SILHOUETTES, THESE UNDERSTATED VASES GO WITH JUST ABOUT ANY STYLE.

Acrylic blend Carson **SOFA** in Emerald, $6,760, Barrymore Furniture, barrymore-furniture.com.

Cynthia Rowley Collection cotton Coco **DAYBED** in Pink, $4,499, Art Shoppe, theartshoppe.com.

THE PLUSH LIFE

With temperatures on the rise, you may be inclined to steer clear of rich textures like velvet and mohair. But when made of cool-to-the-touch materials, the lush fabrics are luxuriously inviting. Don't you want to just sink into one of these jewel-toned seats? We thought so.

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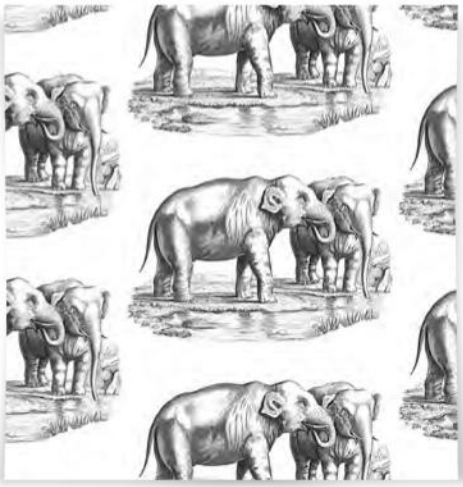
Peonies **WALLPAPER** in Copper, $190 US per double roll, Rifle Paper Co., riflepaperco.com.



Abnormals Anonymous Gossip **WALLPAPER** in Men in Black, $95 per yard, NewWall, newwall.com.

Blooms Grande **WALLPAPER** in White, $178 US per double roll, Caitlin Wilson, caitlinwilson.com.

Cole & Son Curio Quartz **WALLPAPER** in Emerald Green, $234 per double roll, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com.

8 WHIMSICAL **WALLPAPERS**

Graphic and gripping, colourful and curious, bold and bright – these imaginative wallcoverings are no wallflowers, and they're sure to energize your space.

Peel **WALLPAPER** in Blush Gold, $170 per single roll, Jill Malek, jillmalek.com.

Thibaut Trade Routes Goa **WALLPAPER** in Blue, $128 per single roll, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com.

Schumacher Balloons **WALLPAPER** in Multi, $372 per single roll, through designers, Bilbrough & Co., bilbroughs.com.

Osborne & Little Matthew Williamson Cubana Flamingo Club W6800 **WALLPAPER** in 01, $406 per double roll, through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca.

BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF BLACK STAINLESS STEEL

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Designed for those who dare to create.

Kitchenaid.ca/new

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This gorgeous reversible quilt is perfectly at home in a cottage-style bedroom.

blue florals

Welcome summer into your space with the latest trend in floral prints: romantic Mediterranean-look blue and white.

PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

inspiration

Burberry's spring 2016 lace minidress is a total head-turner thanks to its bold floral print.

Uplift your living room: Upholster an armchair in this graphic floral fabric.

1 Martha Stewart reversible cotton Watercolour Rose **QUILT** in Blue, from $220, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

2 Thibaut Waterford Floral **WALLPAPER** in Blue, $100 per single roll, through designers, Kravet Canada, kravetcanada.com.

3 Polyester Batik **POUCH,** $22, Indigo, indigo.ca.

4 Ralph Lauren stoneware Côte d'Azur Floral **DINNERWARE,** $95 per 4-piece set, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

5 Stella McCartney Climacool Sonic **RUNNING SHOES** in Dark Blue, White & Granite, $210, Adidas, adidas.ca.

6 Belgian linen Floral Collage **FABRIC** in Navy, $158 US per yard, Rebecca Atwood, rebeccaatwood.com.

7 Roar + Rabbit outdoor polyester Thistle **TOSS CUSHION COVER,** $69, West Elm, westelm.com.

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HOW TO

keep towels fresh

Everything you need to know to pick durable towels and keep them looking and smelling fresh.

PRODUCER MARY LEVITSKI

Nothing beats wrapping yourself in fluffy terry following a bath, but if not properly cared for, towels can start looking drab and smelling worse, leaving you feeling less than clean. A towel's dense fibres wick moisture – and everything that comes with it – deep into its core, creating the dark, damp conditions ideal for bacterial growth. So launder towels often, using the hottest setting the fabric can handle and a mild detergent. For an extra disinfecting kick, add a cup or two of white vinegar, but skip the fabric softener, which tends to cling to and remain embedded among the loops, compromising a complete cleanse. Be sure to remove towels from the washer immediately and dry thoroughly (in direct sunlight, if possible) but don't overheat – it can damage the fibres.

dry goods

HANG ON

Beyond aesthetics, a towel left crumpled on the bathroom floor is a strict no-no, as it will remain moist for a prolonged period and therefore be vulnerable to bacterial growth. Hang it on a towel bar rather than a hook, on which it would bunch and fold. For an extra drying boost and luxe factor, consider investing in a towel warmer.

LESS IS MORE

Though it might be tempting to load up on detergent, Melissa Maker, founder of Clean My Space, warns that leftover suds can cling to extra dirt and redeposit it onto your laundry, leaving it dingy.

DO

Wash coloured towels separately the first few times, even those labelled colourfast (better safe than sorry!).

DON'T

Use chlorine bleach on white towels (opt for gentler oxygen-powered bleach instead).

material matters

GET TO KNOW THE MOST POPULAR TOWEL TEXTILES.

Egyptian cotton: Dense, strong fibres that produce the ultimate softness and absorbency.

Supima cotton: Almost as soft as Egyptian but longer lasting.

Organic cotton: Sustainably sourced; quality depends on the type of cotton.

Turkish cotton: Highly durable, boasting a natural sheen.

Bamboo viscose: Sustainable and antibacterial; fast drying and lustrous.

Microfibre: Super-fast-drying synthetic; lacks plushness.

DID YOU KNOW?

The quality of a towel is measured by its grams per square metre (GSM), ranging from about 300 on the low end to 600 on the high.

for good measure

Ensure you're using the right amount of detergent with pre-measured pods.

TRIPLE THREAT
This naturally sourced detergent deep cleans, targets stains and softens laundry.

Grab Green fragrance-free 3-in-1 **LAUNDRY DETERGENT,** $11 per 24 pods, Well.ca.

EARTH-FRIENDLY
A low-foaming vegetable- and mineral-based option that conserves water.

Nature Clean unscented **LAUNDRY DETERGENT,** $8 per 24 pods, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

NON-ALLERGENIC
A powerful formula that is less irritating to sensitive skin.

Free & Gentle **LAUNDRY DETERGENT,** $10 per 31 pods, Tide, tide.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK (TOWELS)

HE FIGHTS DIRTY *no matter how dirty* DIRTY IS.

NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE, TOUGH MESSES DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHEN MR. CLEAN'S MAGIC ERASER IS PART OF YOUR CLEAN ROUTINE.

WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.

Wet before use. A rinse is required for surfaces that come in direct contact with food. Use as directed.

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PRODUCER AMANDA ETTY

kitchen cravings

This issue, we round up environmentally conscious solutions for a less wasteful kitchen.

1 TO MARKET, TO MARKET

This Parisian-style net bag is made of strong stretchy cotton, which is just one of the details that make it practical. It's perfect as a reusable shopping bag, but we won't tell if you use it all day long because you love it so much.

Net **BAG,** $15, Mûr Lifestyle, murlifestyle.com.

2 THAT'S A WRAP

Here's how to keep your lunch fresh without plastic: Use the warmth from your hands to mould this beeswax-coated wrap around your sandwich or the top of a dish of leftovers. The wrap will stiffen and stick when cool. Bonus: It's reusable.

Flat **WRAPS,** $18 per set of 3, Abeego, abeego.com.

3 BUTTER UP

This old-fashioned method for keeping butter fresh, soft and spreadable involves soaking the clay lid in water to maintain a cool temperature.

Användbar **BUTTER DISH,** $15, IKEA, ikea.ca.

4 PURIFY PURELY

Beauty and function unite in Soma's sculptural glass water carafe. The compostable filter is made from coconut shell carbon and a plant-based casing, and it's effective for up to 40 gallons (or about two months).

Soma sustainable **CARAFE,** $64, Amazon, amazon.ca.

Blanco **TEQUILA,** $60, Casamigos Tequila, casamigos-tequila.com.

STRAWBERRY SMASH

1 part freshly squeezed lime juice
½ part simple syrup
2 whole fresh strawberries, hulled
4 to 5 fresh basil leaves
2 dashes Peychaud's Bitters
2 parts Casamigos Blanco tequila
Ice
Large fresh basil leaf and a fresh strawberry slice, for garnish

Add the lime juice, simple syrup, strawberries, basil and bitters to a cocktail shaker; muddle. Add the tequila and ice, then shake vigorously for 10 seconds; strain into a rock glass. Add more ice. Garnish with the basil leaf and strawberry slice.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ISTOCKPHOTO (LEMON)

You're going to need a bigger recipe book.
You've always been interested in trying new recipes: cutting them out of magazines, bookmarking them, saving them on your tablet. But your kitchen has always gotten in the way. Don't let that happen any longer. With German engineered Bosch appliances in your home, limitless possibilities come standard. So find those bookmarks and dig up those recipes – it's time to cook.
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BOSCH
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Step aside, ubiquitous vanilla ice cream – there's a *more sophisticated* player on deck this summer. Layered, luscious and bowl-licking good, this delectable *chilled confection* is just right for hot days when you want *a little wow* in your culinary repertoire.

frozen berry pudding bombe

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING TANYA ENG

PHOTOGRAPHY MAYA VISNYEI

PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

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INGREDIENTS

SERVES 8 TO 10

- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup fresh raspberries
- ½ cup granulated sugar, divided
- 4 eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 cup superfine sugar
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups 35% whipping cream
- 1 tsp freshly grated lemon zest

Garnish

- ½ cup fresh blueberries
- 10 fresh mint leaves
- 1 pasteurized egg white
- ½ cup superfine sugar

DIRECTIONS

Simmer the blueberries and raspberries separately, in two small saucepans, with ¼ cup sugar each until the berries have broken down and the mixtures have reduced to a thick syrup. Strain each berry mixture into a separate bowl and set aside to cool.

Place the eggs, egg yolks, sugar and vanilla in a large heatproof bowl set over a medium-sized saucepan filled with 2" of simmering water. Beat constantly with a handheld electric mixer on high speed for 4 minutes; remove from the heat and beat a further 3 minutes, until the mixture has formed a thick and pale pudding-like consistency. In a separate bowl, beat the whipping cream until soft peaks form; fold into the pudding mixture. Divide the mixture equally (about 3 cups each) among three bowls.

Fold the lemon zest into the first portion, the raspberry syrup into the second portion and the blueberry syrup into the third. Layer the mixtures in a 10-cup bowl, beginning with the lemon pudding, then the raspberry pudding and finally the blueberry pudding. Cover and freeze overnight. To unmould the pudding bombe, dip the bowl into a basin of hot water to loosen the edges, then turn the bowl over onto a serving plate. Refreeze the pudding bombe, uncovered, for at least half an hour to set.

While the pudding bombe is setting, make the garnish. Lightly brush the blueberries and mint leaves with the egg white, then gently toss in a bowl with the sugar to coat. Shake off any excess sugar and let the berries and mint dry on parchment paper or paper towel. Garnish the pudding bombe with the sugared blueberries and mint leaves just before serving.

DELICATE SUGARED BLUEBERRIES AND MINT LEAVES ADD A REFINED TOUCH TO THIS FROZEN DESSERT.

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INTRODUCING
SHREDS
DUO ZIP
NATURAL CHEESE
CRACKER BARREL
FROMAGE NATUREL
3 CHEESE • 3 FROMAGES
PIZZA
PIZZA MOZZARELLA / CHEDDAR / PROVOLONE

media room

While a neutral scheme may look easy to execute, it's often just the opposite. This muted media room gives us a lesson on how to do white right.

WHEN IMPLEMENTING A WHITE-ON-WHITE DESIGN, INCORPORATE DIFFERENT TEXTURES TO KEEP THE LOOK FROM READING AS TOO STARK OR ONE-NOTE. HERE, ROUGH STONE VENEER WAS INSTALLED FLOOR-TO-CEILING TO MAKE THE BOOKCASES STAND OUT.

NEUTRAL WALLS ARE PERFECT FOR SHOWING OFF ATTENTION-GRABBING ARTWORK LIKE THIS GRAPHIC BLACK AND WHITE EQUINE PORTRAIT BY CARMEN LALI.

TEXT ERYN CHESNEY

PHOTOGRAPHY TRACEY AYTON

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FRESH GREENERY AND BLOOMS GIVE A BREATH OF LIFE TO AN OTHERWISE COLOUR-FREE SPACE. PAIRED WITH METALLIC ACCENTS, THIS TABLETOP DISPLAY ADDS AN ELEMENT OF FEMININITY.

DESIGN, Peridot Decorative Homewear, peridotdecorativehomewear.ca; Silver Satin OC-26 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; marble **VENEER,** Ames Tile; custom **SECTIONAL, CHAISE LONGUE & RUG, COFFEE TABLE, TOSS CUSHIONS,** sphere **OBJETS,** Peridot Decorative Homewear; white **VASES & HURRICANES,** West Elm; horse **BOOKENDS,** Indigo.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Lanart Rug shag **RUG** in Linen, 5′ x 7′, $96, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

▲ Lichen **VASE** in Ivory, 7.5″, $34, 18Karat, 18karatstore.com.

▲ Round marble-topped Smart **COFFEE TABLE,** $499, CB2, cb2.ca.

get the look
Monochromatic Media Room

◀ Framed canvas White Horse **PRINT,** $120, Bouclair, bouclair.com.

▶ Fiona **CHAISE LONGUE** in Beige, $699, Structube, structube.com.

Available at Walmart

Lipidol is a range of six new oils for daily skincare. Featured product: Lipidol Overnight Face Oil 50ml. Supplements the skin's natural oily layer stripped away by daily exposure to the elements. Available at Walmart and walmart.ca at $8.97. lipidol.com

at first *blush*

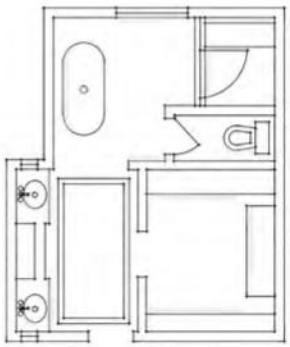
A master ensuite comes to see the light thanks to a major renovation involving a fresh layout and glamorous touches.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PHIL CROZIER

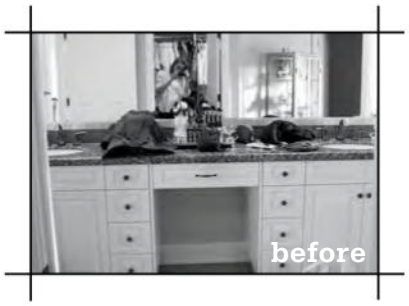
PROBLEM
A dark and dated bathroom devoid of personality

SOLUTION
Reconfigure the layout to create a bright and airy space with feminine flair

FLOOR PLAN
230 sq. ft.



RIGHT The light-filled ensuite boasts a custom double vanity that spans an entire wall without being visually intrusive. "The mirrored cabinetry creates the illusion of a larger space," says designer Alanna Dunn. The vanity doors, together with the cristallo quartzite countertop, also bounce light around and add a dose of sparkle.



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It all started with a major leak in her master ensuite's shower – that's when Mikki Sutherland, the blogger behind Centre Street Style, knew she was in troubled waters. But instead of letting the flood damage overwhelm her, the Calgary-based homeowner took it as an opportunity to transform her confined cookie-cutter bathroom into a spa-like space reflective of her refined style. Luckily enough, Corea Sotropa Interior Design had already renovated the majority of her home, so in 2014, it made sense for the company to continue the process. "The bathroom was very basic and a bit on the rustic side," says designer Alanna Dunn, who headed the overhaul. "We decided to reconfigure the layout to create an open-concept space with a real beauty factor."

The first order of business: gutting the cramped quarters from top to bottom. The bathroom's original inset soaker tub, which was located beside a narrow shower, was traded in for a free-standing clawfoot version. A new spacious glass-enclosed shower, complete with a large built-in bench for comfort, was installed across from it. The design team also rejigged the ensuite's walk-in closet to accommodate Mikki's ever-growing wardrobe and repositioned the water closet to further open up the layout and take advantage of the natural light spilling in from the large window.

As for the finer details, the room's elegant aesthetic came easily thanks to a chevron-patterned marble tile Alanna stumbled across, which served as the jumping-off point for the decor. The tile, with its warm peach undertones, was used to create a feature wall to wake up the white palette and also as a floor inlay in front of the vanity "to provide a sense of separation from one area to the other," says the designer. "Everything else fell into place from there." (And she means everything – from the polished brass accents to the hints of blush pink.) In the end, the ensuite achieves what was intended from the start: It epitomizes Mikki's knack for living ever so stylishly.

BRASS FIXTURES, SUCH AS THIS WALL SCONCE, ENHANCE THE WARM TONES OF THE CHEVRON-PATTERNED TILE.

RIGHT, TOP The cast iron clawfoot tub imparts a dreamy luxe vibe to the space. Hauling it up the stairs was no easy feat, however. "We originally had four people on-site to carry it and had to call for two more," says Alanna. "That was the moment we crossed our fingers!"

RIGHT To create a cohesive look, Alanna had the shower outfitted with the three different marble tiles that were used throughout the ensuite.

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LEFT The built-in vanity features a distinctive toe kick that tricks one into thinking it's a stand-alone piece of furniture. Aesthetics aside, the custom unit also provides homeowner Mikki Sutherland with ample storage space for her arsenal of beauty products.

BELOW "We chose a floral wallpaper for the water closet to add a soft organic feel against the geometric floor tiles," says Alanna. The spiky brass-finished pendant light lends a modern edge.

DESIGN, Corea Sotropa Interior Design, coreasotropa.ca; **MILLWORK,** Peppertree Studio; Intense White OC-51 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **WALLPAPER,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; cristallo **QUARTZITE** (on countertop & in shower), Icon Stone & Tile; marble **WALL & FLOOR TILES,** Empire Kitchen & Bath; **BATHTUB, TUB FILLER,** Cheviot Products; **SIDE TABLE,** HomeSense; custom **STOOL,** Hickory Chair; **MIRRORS,** Serena & Lily; **LIGHT FIXTURES,** Visual Comfort & Co.; **SHOWER FIXTURES, FAUCETS,** Waterworks; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Colonial Bronze Company.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

5 designer reno tips

Stay on Budget
A simple way to save money is to keep plumbing and lighting in the same place. "Relocating fixtures is often complicated and costly," says designer Alanna Dunn.

Splurge Small
"I always encourage clients to splurge on pieces with moving parts, such as faucets," says the designer. Items like this see a lot of use, so it's worth investing in high-quality products.

Mix Things Up
When pairing patterns, choose designs that vary in scale and don't compete with one another. "I chose three unique tile styles that are noticeably different in size," she says.

Embrace Less
Don't over-accessorize. "Everything will get in the way, especially since a bathroom has to be cleaned so often," says Alanna. Instead, opt for statement wallpaper or accent tiles.

Be Practical
Above all, consider how the reno will impact your daily life. "Make sure you have another bathroom!" she says. "Bathroom renovations typically take at least three months to complete."

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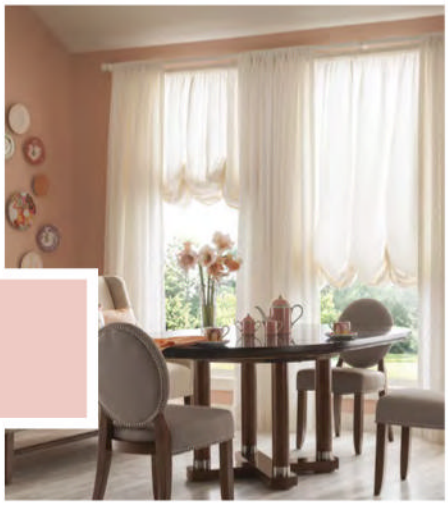
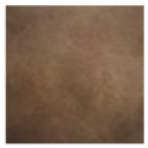
ROMANTIQUE

Pale pink becomes a power colour and takes center stage as one of two hues chosen by Pantone as Color of the Year. Large-scale blooms and botanicals bring nature inside. Grey reigns as a classic complement to lighter, chalkier hues. Metals, woods, glass, and ceramics bring textural interest and keep pastel rooms from becoming too cutesy.



GLOBAL ARTISTRY

Inspired by travel and adventure, the trend is a modern take on global patterns, fabrics, and crafts. It's all in the mix. Embroidery, caning, animal hides, even macramé, give a handcrafted, organic feel to accessories. Soft pastels contrast with deep blues and greys. Ethnic accents complete the look.



MASCULINE MÉLANGE

Black continues to be a strong colour preference for walls, windows, and metal accents. Vintage details add a timeless quality. Rustic woods contrast with classic shapes in furnishings. Leather, copper, wire, and natural elements give texture and shine throughout a room.

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PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI
PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL NANGREAVES

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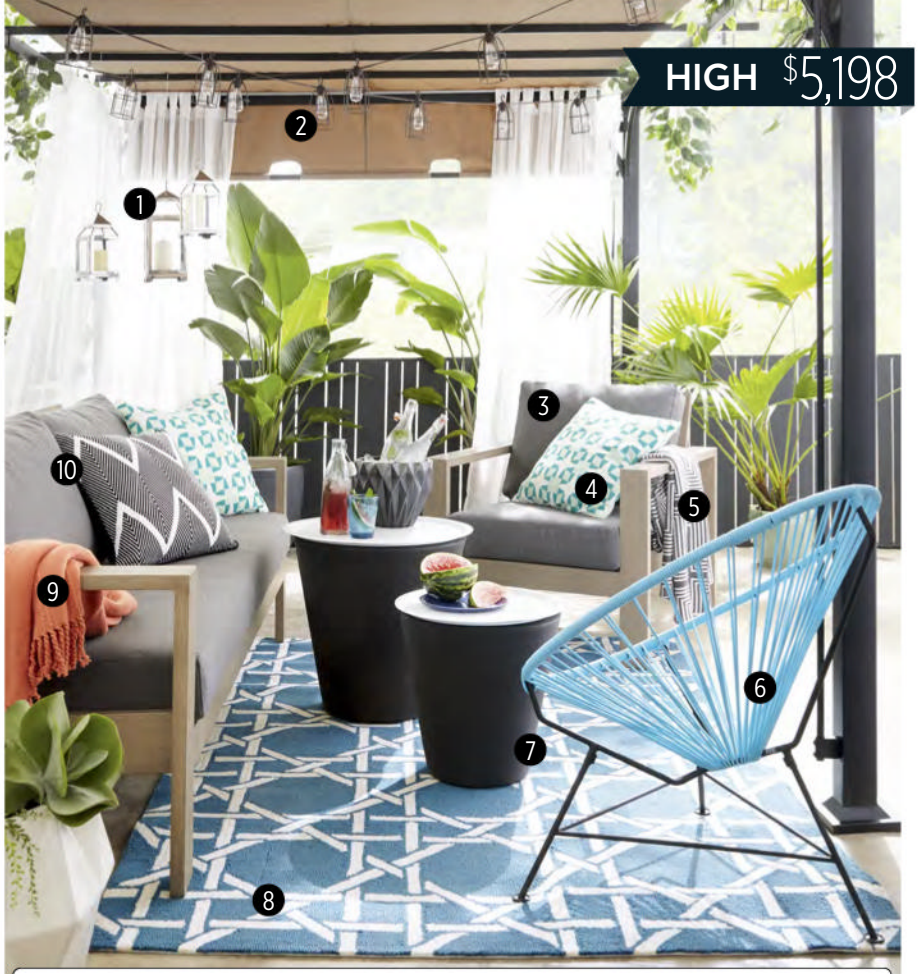

HIGH & LOW PERGOLA, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca; **DRAPERY, TRAYS** (painted, used as tabletops), IKEA, ikea.ca; white faceted **PLANTER,** black faceted **PLANTER** (used as ice bucket), CB2, cb2.ca; green faceted **PLANTER** (in background), HomeSense, homesense.ca; melamine **PLATE,** acrylic **GLASS,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$117US

1 Steel and glass Malta **LANTERNS** in Silver Finish, $34 US each (small), and $49 US (medium), Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$80

2 Eight-light Retro Café **STRING LIGHTS** with iron cages, $40 each, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

$3,148

3 Parklane powder-coated aluminum **ARMCHAIR,** $949, and **SOFA,** $2,199, in Driftwood with foam-filled Sunbrella cushions in Heritage Granite, InsideOut Patio, insideoutpatio.ca.

$124

4 Outdoor polyfilled polyester Moravian Star **TOSS CUSHIONS,** $62 each, CB2, cb2.ca.

$100

5 Double-knit cotton Tempo **THROW,** CB2, cb2.ca.

$430

6 Innit galvanized steel **SIDECHAIR** in Black with woven vinyl cord seat in Blue, Innit, innitdesigns.com.

$300

7 Resin Madison **PLANTERS** (used as table bases) in Caviar Black, 16″, $120, and 20″, $180, Sheridan Nurseries, sheridan-nurseries.com.

$820

8 Polypropylene Cane Grid **RUG** in Capri, 8′ x 10′, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca.

$39US

9 Acrylic Abbott **THROW** in Apricot Brandy, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$40

10 GlucksteinHome outdoor polyfilled cotton Zig Zag **TOSS CUSHION,** Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

LOW $1,595

$85

1 Hometrends chrome-finished steel and glass **LANTERNS,** $25 each (small), and $35 (medium), Walmart, walmart.ca.

$40

2 Ten-light Clear Café **STRING LIGHTS,** $20 each, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

$1,000

3 Canvas FSC-certified eucalyptus Modena **ARMCHAIR,** $350, and **LOVESEAT,** $650, with polyfilled polyester cushions, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

$50

4 Outdoor polyfilled polyester **TOSS CUSHIONS,** $25 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$30

5 Grey and white cotton **THROW,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$150

6 Enamelled steel and plastic **SIDECHAIR** in Blue, Studio Pazo, studiopazo.com.

$110

7 Round clay fibre composite Stacey **PLANTERS** (used as table bases), 18″, $50, and 22″, $60, Jysk, jysk.ca.

$70

8 Reversible plastic Cayaan **RUGS** in Blue, 5′ x 8′, $35 each, Jysk, jysk.ca.

$40

9 Coral acrylic **THROW,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$20

10 Beynac outdoor polyfilled polyester **TOSS CUSHION,** Jysk, jysk.ca.

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PSST... This is the reverse side of rug No.1.

lie like a rug

Next time you're entertaining outdoors, fool guests into thinking they're lounging in your living room by laying out comforts like an **outdoor rug and toss cushions.**

1 Reversible plastic Cayaan **RUG** in Blue, 5′ x 8′, $35, Jysk, jysk.ca; **2** Ernest polypropylene Miami **RUG** in Tile Teal, 5′ x 8′, $69, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com; **3** Canvas polypropylene Spartina **RUG,** 8′ x 10′, $140, and **4** polyfilled polyester Blue Lagoon **TOSS CUSHION,** $15, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca; **5** polypropylene Cane Grid **RUG** in Capri, 8′ x 10′, $820, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca; **6** Beynac polyfilled polyester **TOSS CUSHION,** $20, Jysk, jysk.ca; **7** Gluckstein-Home polyfilled cotton Zig Zag **TOSS CUSHION,** $40, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com; **8** Canvas polyfilled polyester Obsidian **TOSS CUSHION,** $15, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

THINK OUTSIDE THE BUCKET WHEN CREATING A BEVERAGE STATION. WHY NOT USE A **PRETTY PLANTER** FILLED WITH ICE TO KEEP BEVVIES COOL UNDER THE SUN?

Parklane powder-coated aluminum **SOFA** in Driftwood with foam-filled Sunbrella cushions in Heritage Granite, $2,199, InsideOut Patio, insideoutpatio.ca.

care tactics

Though it's more resilient than its indoor counterpart, outdoor fabric is vulnerable to all manner of mess. Keep it clean by brushing off surface dirt regularly. If you spill, act fast: Blot (never rub) the liquid off and then spot clean by spraying with a solution of warm water and dish soap. Rinse thoroughly and air-dry.

Keep fresh fruit and herbs on hand as tasty garnishes.

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Canvas FSC-certified eucalyptus Modena **COFFEE TABLE,** $250, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

step up to the plate

Melamine plates deliver the durability of plastic without sacrificing the texture, pattern and colour variations of ceramic and stoneware.

1 GlucksteinHome Striped Hammered Irregular, $5 (salad), Hudson's Bay, thebay.com; **2** Rope in Indigo, $8 US (salad), Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com; **3** GlucksteinHome Decorated Hammered Irregular, $7 (dinner), Hudson's Bay, thebay.com; **4** Canvas Tuscany, $5 (dinner), $4 (salad), and **5** Seashore, $5 (dinner), $4 (salad), Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca; **6** Reactive Glaze in Indigo, $11 US (dinner), Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com; **7** Hometrends tropical print, $2.50 (salad), $3 (dinner), and **8** Medallion in Blue, $3 (salad), Walmart, walmart.ca; **9** Swirl in Blue, $11 US (dinner), Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

DIY SIDE TABLE

Put away your glue gun; no need to bust out that screwdriver. This DIY is as easy as pie. All you need to make these outdoor side tables are some oversized planters and a couple of circular trays (we painted ours white for a sophisticated monochromatic look). Place the trays atop the planters, and you're done! The removable tops can be used to graciously serve guests some refreshments, while the interiors are perfect for hiding extra toss cushions and throws.

Resin Madison **PLANTER** in Caviar Black, 20", $180, Sheridan Nurseries, sheridannurseries.com; round clay fibre composite Stacey **PLANTER,** 18", $50, Jysk, jysk.ca; laminated cardboard Sommar 2016 **TRAY,** $9, and Favorit **TRAY,** $17, IKEA, ikea.ca.

Stow toss cushions inside when not in use to protect them from the elements.

colour CONFIDENTIAL

In partnership with *Style at Home*, BEHR asked some of Canada's biggest influencers for their best advice on how to make a stylish statement with a fresh coat of paint. Sounds simple, doesn't it? Well, BEHR's most advanced paint yet, MARQUEE® Interior (available exclusively at The Home Depot), makes a makeover even easier with its One Coat Guarantee. So read on, and get inspired to pick up a paintbrush and start your next project!

THE LOOK: Boho Country

THE INFLUENCER: Christina Dennis OF thedIymommy.com

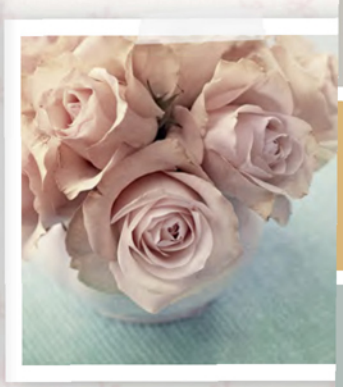
UNEXPECTED WAY TO USE PAINT Make an impact with bold statements in small doses. "Extend your existing palette by going a few shades deeper on, say, a closet door," says Christina.

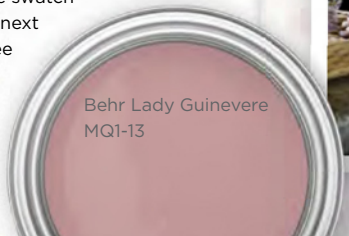
AMPLIFYING ARTWORK A textile and art lover who likes to incorporate graphic prints into her space, Christina sticks to softer wall colours like those in the BEHR MARQUEE® Lights collection to highlight and contrast these accents.

PERFECT PAINT PROJECT Christina is always inspired, and is already planning her next paint project. "I'll paint our powder room ceiling a smoky teal shade in a matte finish," she says. "When painting slightly uneven surfaces like a ceiling or a textured wall, a matte finish will help to disguise any flaws."

BEST ADVICE "Buy a sample pot of paint and brush a large swatch on your wall. Look at the swatch throughout the next few days and see how the colour changes with the light."

"This palette takes its cues from a sun-filled day at the beach."





Behr Lady Guinevere
MQ1-13

White Lie
MQ3-55

Pumice
MQ6-23

Lamplit
MQ4-11

Cascade Green
MQ6-36

THE LOOK:
Fresh Contemporary

THE INFLUENCER:
Jacquelyn Clark
OF larkandlinen.com

UNEXPECTED WAY TO USE PAINT The best way to add some oomph? "With a painted ceiling," says Jacquelyn. "I'm hoping to paint our bathroom ceiling a soft dove grey in a flat finish."

BEST ADVICE "Always, always, always paint a test swatch on more than one wall in your space," says the designer.

BIGGEST LESSON Jacquelyn knows from experience: "When in doubt, tone it down a little. Paint always feels a lot more saturated when it's up on the wall," she says. "All of those subtle undertones will be significantly more present."

PERFECT PAINT PROJECT "A painted feature wall is a wonderful way to make a bold statement on a limited budget. The best advice I can give is just go for it! If it's not your thing, it's incredibly easy to fix!"

TRICK OF THE TRADE Paint to the rescue! When designing for clients, Jacquelyn is sometimes challenged to incorporate a lifetime of seemingly disparate pieces, but paint often saves the day. "Paint ties all those items together," she says.

FAVOURITE FINISHES "Eggshell for bedrooms, living rooms and dining rooms; satin for hard-working rooms like kitchens, bathrooms and hallways; and semigloss for trim and railings."

TRAVEL INSPIRATION "I love coming across a surprisingly soft and romantic palette in far-off places. The BEHR MARQUEE® Lights collection would definitely be my jumping-off point for designing a space inspired by cities like Udaipur, India, and Cape Town."

"This serene palette makes coming home at the end of the day a joy."

Moxie
MQ3-35

Will O The Wisp
MQ3-59

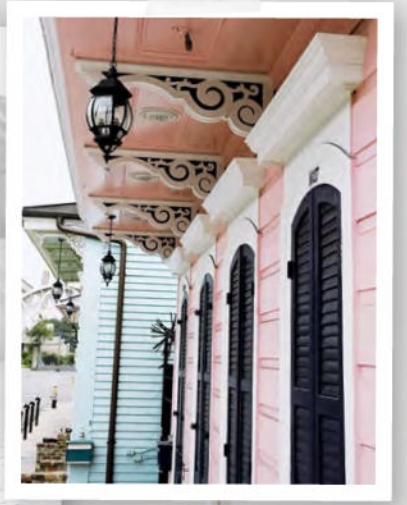
Radiant Silver
MQ5-21

Secret Society
MQ5-10

Behr Noble Blush
MQ4-4

Behr Whipped Mint
MQ3-20

"This palette is sophisticated but fun."



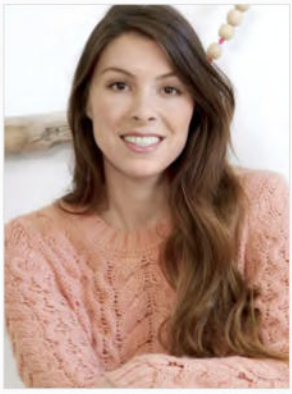
Quiet on the Set
MQ3-4

Stolen Kiss
MQ3-34

Crisp Linen
MQ3-13

Ethereal Mood
MQ3-52

THE LOOK:
Modern Cottage



THE INFLUENCER:
Holly Baker
OF inthefunlane.com

UNEXPECTED WAY TO USE PAINT Here's a fresh idea: "Choose a tint for your trim and go white on the walls. It's so simple, and the result is really eye-catching," says Holly. For example, she would paint her bathroom trim a very pale grey with a blue undertone to set off all the white tile.

PERFECT (MINI) PAINT PROJECT How Holly uses paint to get the perfect pop of colour: "When I found a cool candlestick on sale but didn't like the colour, I painted it Behr Stolen Kiss MQ3-34. It was the perfect blush pink our family room needed."

BEST ADVICE From experience, Holly has learned to take the time to do the right prep: "Cover everything and use good painter's tape, so when it's time to crack open the paint can, you have no distractions or holdups."

PERFECT PAINT PROJECT "Painting furniture is an easy and affordable way to bring character to your space. I have an old cabinet that's a minty green shade on the front, but the top and sides are all white. It's unexpected and makes an old piece of furniture feel fresh and fun!"

TRICK OF THE TRADE Overwhelmed by all the options? "Start by deciding whether you want your walls to be the star of the room or the back-up singer to your furniture," advises Holly.

TRAVEL INSPIRATION "The perfect sky blue reminds me of the front porches of the American South, where it's tradition to have a blue ceiling. A good strong lilac hue makes me think of one of my favourite houses in wNew Orleans. There aren't many places where a purple house looks like it fits right in!"

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1

1. KEEP IT ORDERLY

Though the lively room packs a colour punch, home-owner Candace Alongi kept it largely clean-lined, with simple pieces and one shelving unit to display books, toys and shoes. After all, with a baby in her arms and a toddler at her feet, Candace could only assume clutter would come soon enough.

Jack & Jill

How the lifestyle blogger of The Minted Mama perfected a stylish gender-neutral nursery suitable for both her little prince and her little princess.

TEXT LESLEY YOUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ASHLEY CAPP | **STYLING** STACY BEGG & MORGAN LINDSAY

When Candace Alongi had her first child, she wanted the gender to be a surprise, but she also desired a nursery that was chic, stylish and, of course, functional. Luckily, the decorista and lifestyle blogger behind The Minted Mama knew exactly how to create a gender-neutral space that's as sophisticated and polished as it is fun and youthful: with an unconventional palette and refined furnishings that, though bright, suit adults and kids alike. Shortly after she applied the finishing touches to the nursery, her son, Massimo (now 3), arrived, and the space suited him so much that he stayed in it until he got his first big-boy room. That's when the nursery's gender neutrality got its true test: Massimo's new baby sister, Gemma (now 10 months), moved in. "It's terrific. I feel like it suits her just as much!" says Candace. "While I'm nursing, Massimo plays with toys on the floor, and we all enjoy the space together."

2. GET REPETITIVE

Taking a cue from the elegant circle detail at the foot of the crib, Candace repeated the round motif throughout the room, from the ball mobile to the polka-dot bedding.

3. WATCH WHAT YOU BUY

Since adults aren't likely to lick their furniture, it doesn't always occur to parents to consider the materials and finishes when choosing pieces for their kids' rooms. "Your child will definitely chew on the edges of the crib at some point," says Candace, "so make sure the finish is non-toxic." Picking low-maintenance items is also essential. High-gloss surfaces show little people's fingerprint smudges, and anything that's dry clean or spot wash only will leave you in a fit of frustration.

4. LET ARTWORK INSPIRE

While the bold palette of juicy orange, minty blue and cool grey was already on Candace's mind when she was planning the nursery, it was a piece of artwork she found at her local HomeSense that drove the decision home. "Finding it was a total aha moment," says Candace. "The piece was exactly what I'd envisioned, and seeing it in front of me confirmed the scheme for the whole room." Taking an unconventional palette from fabric or artwork is the perfect way to deliver results that look unexpected yet pulled together.

5. ADD WINKS OF WHIMSY

"Incorporate elements of fun while still keeping the look sophisticated and in line with the rest of your home's decor," says Candace. The hidden orange inner panels on the change table drawers are a perfect example of a stylish surprise.

6. MAKE IT A FAMILY AFFAIR

Candace went with two armchairs instead of one because she wanted company while she was nursing. "My husband stayed up with me during those first few late-night feedings," says Candace. "Now, that second chair gets used by my toddler, who likes to spend time with his baby sister."

7. FIND FURNISHINGS WITH STAYING POWER

Stylish yet youthful furniture can be found almost anywhere, as evidenced in this room, from the punchy side table to the chic change table, which can be used as a regular dresser to suit a teenager.

8. PUT THE FUN IN FUNCTIONAL

Candace strayed from the traditional rocking chair (to avoid getting the baby into the routine of being rocked to sleep). She instead opted for armchairs (one shown) and an ottoman that she had painted and reupholstered in a whimsical orange chevron-patterned fabric to energize the room.

Palladian Blue HC-144 **WALL PAINT,** Outrageous Orange 2013-10 **ARMCHAIR & OTTOMAN PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CHANGE TABLE, CRIB,** Ducduc; **ARMCHAIR & OTTOMAN FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **ARMCHAIR & OTTOMAN REFINISHING & UPHOLSTERY,** Persia Furniture; **SIDE TABLE, DRAPERY,** canvas **PRINT, MIRROR,** embroidered white and orange **TOSS CUSHION,** owl **STATUE,** HomeSense; polka-dot **CRIB SHEET & CHANGE PAD COVER,** The Land of Nod; alphabet **PRINT,** Binth; white **TABLE LAMP**, Elte; grey star **TOSS CUSHION,** BunBunBaby; polka-dot **TOSS CUSHION,** Tonic Living; bunny **TOSS CUSHION,** elephant **BOOKEND,** Indigo; blue **TOSS CUSHION,** polka-dot **HAMPER, MOBILE,** cat, elephant and fox **PLUSH TOYS,** Ella+Elliot.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

in the OPEN

Eight brilliant rules for decorating an open-concept space.

TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES

PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY

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The 1,100-square-foot main floor of this Vancouver family home boasting a modern beach house look has a lot going for it, namely all the light. The large open-concept space consisting of a kitchen, living area and dining room is flooded with natural light thanks to five skylights and plenty of windows. "It's so bright, even in the grey West Coast winter," says one of the homeowners. But such a spacious undefined layout doesn't come without its challenges – when a great room is too great for its own good, how does one make it cozy and livable? The homeowners worked closely with architect Jonathan Katz of J+R Katz Design & Architecture and designer Melanie Finkleman of Hazel + Brown Design Company to come up with a design that accomplishes just that. Here are eight ways they made this open floor plan shine.

DESIGN, Hazel + Brown Design Company, hazelandbrown.com; **ARCHITECTURE,** J+R Katz Design & Architecture; Chantilly Lace OC-65 **WALL, CEILING, TRIM & CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **CABINETRY,** Richmond Cabinets; **COUNTERTOPS,** Wolfox Ultimate Kitchen; **BACKSPLASH,** Looking Glass Designs; **SOFA,** Van Gogh Designs; **SIDECHAIRS,** Urban Outfitters; **COFFEE TABLE,** Sunpan Modern Home; gas **FIREPLACE,** The Fireplace Warehouse; **ROLLER SHADES,** DRC Designers Resource Centre; **STOOLS,** Mobital; **POUFFE,** CB2; **FLOORING,** Envision Hardwood Floors; **RUG,** Country Furniture; **PENDANT LIGHT,** The Lighting Warehouse; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** West Elm; **FAUCET,** Delta Faucet; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Richelieu Hardware; white **BOWL,** Williams-Sonoma; **VASES,** orange **STOCKPOT,** HomeSense.

1. PAINT EVERYTHING ONE SHADE

Sticking with one paint colour throughout an open-concept space prevents a disjointed appearance. On the main floor, designer Melanie Finkleman selected the same crisp white for the walls, ceiling, trim and cabinetry. The result is a bright envelope that emphasizes the home's light-filled modernity.

2. USE UNIFORM MATERIALS

It's not only paint colour that will provide a cohesive look. Design elements like flooring, cabinetry, trim and fabric should also coordinate. In this house, the driftwood-look oak floors run throughout the space, and the grey Caesarstone countertops in the kitchen complement the concrete-topped coffee table in the living area.

3. KEEP IT CASUAL

Open-concept living marries well with a laid-back lifestyle. This family-friendly home has nothing too precious or breakable and boasts plenty of hard-wearing choices, such as hardwood floors and leather chairs.

4. DEFINE SEPARATE AREAS

Large open spaces can feel cavernous if specific zones aren't demarcated according to their function. Here, the furniture arrangement defines the living area, while the Caesarstone-topped island delineates the kitchen.

5. DECORATE WITH TEXTURE

In an expansive monochromatic room, texture is key. "The ceiling-height brick fireplace and the geometry of the built-in shelving unit add visual interest without distracting from the minimal aesthetic," says Melanie.

6. CHOOSE SIMPLE WINDOW TREATMENTS

Barely-there white roller shades control light and offer privacy. "They block out the southern glare while maintaining the airy feel of the space," says Melanie.

7. INCLUDE AMPLE CLOSED STORAGE

No matter how much we all strive to live minimally, having some stuff is inevitable. "We were realistic about wanting to hide visual clutter in the kitchen since it's so connected to the living area," says Melanie. Plenty of closed cabinetry means everyday dishes, small appliances and various odds and ends are out of sight, giving the entire space a tidy appearance and allowing the pops of colour in the living area to shine.

8. KEEP THE AESTHETIC CONSISTENT

"Since the kitchen is visible from every angle, we used simple materials – matte grey Caesarstone for the countertops and grey back-painted glass for the backsplash – so it would seamlessly integrate with the rest of the space," says Melanie. Such a neutral backdrop means the look is consistent when viewed from any area on the main floor. "It's calming because your eye doesn't bounce around too much."

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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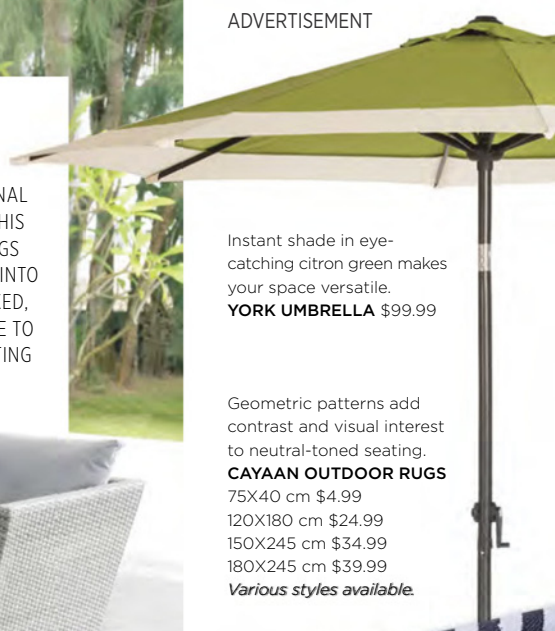

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A graphic pillow in a juicy hue adds a fresh, colourful accent. **"BUZZ" BEYNAC OUTDOOR DECOR CUSHION** $19.99

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concrete JUNGLE

A compelling contrast of textures brings this verdant Vancouver front yard to life.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

GARDEN STATS

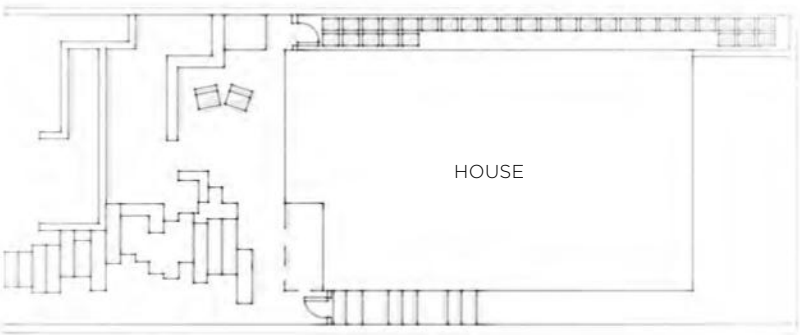
A front garden featuring geometric concrete hardscaping juxtaposed with a jumble of lively and lush plant varieties.

SIZE

25′ × 33′

FOCUS

LOW-MAINTENANCE PART-SHADE PERENNIALS



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BELOW For the walkway, landscape designer Sarah Carver opted for shorter stairs with deeper treads (14 inches instead of the standard 12-inch size), along with a large landing "to make the experience more comfortable and leisurely," she says. Every aspect of the design follows a grid pattern, even the score lines in the concrete, which prevent cracking and lend symmetry and interest. In the evening, lights set within the concrete illuminate the stairs.

BOTTOM RIGHT To maximize every inch of space, Sarah had the concrete borders surrounding the courtyard raised to seat height and ensured they would be wide enough to accommodate outdoor cushions. "We knew creating a typical furniture layout would be difficult, so this is like built-in furniture that doubles as retaining walls," she says. In the garden, a Japanese maple nestled in a nook beside the staircase offers privacy from the street, while purple plants, such as hebes and ageratum peppered along the edges, add colourful contrast.

When the opportunity to enliven an outdoor space arises, few homeowners focus on the front yard, but for one Vancouver couple, who grew tired of walking down chipped concrete steps and passing worn-wood retaining walls to enter their home, it was the area they were most eager to renovate. In 2013, the pair enlisted landscape designer Sarah Carver of Haven Garden Design to devise a functional front garden that would make a glowing first impression (in addition to updating their backyard). "We wanted to create a strong sense of arrival when you enter the property," says Sarah.

In order to achieve this, the designer used the house's contemporary cube-shaped facade as the jumping-off point, opting for concrete slabs set in a geometric design to juxtapose the lush and textured plant combinations.

The homeowners also wanted to establish a visual connection with the indoors, so Sarah strategically positioned the outdoor sitting area adjacent to the living room and had lights embedded in the concrete and interspersed among the plants throughout the yard. Now, the couple can appreciate the garden's beauty from inside or out – whether they're sipping coffee in the courtyard in the early morning or admiring the

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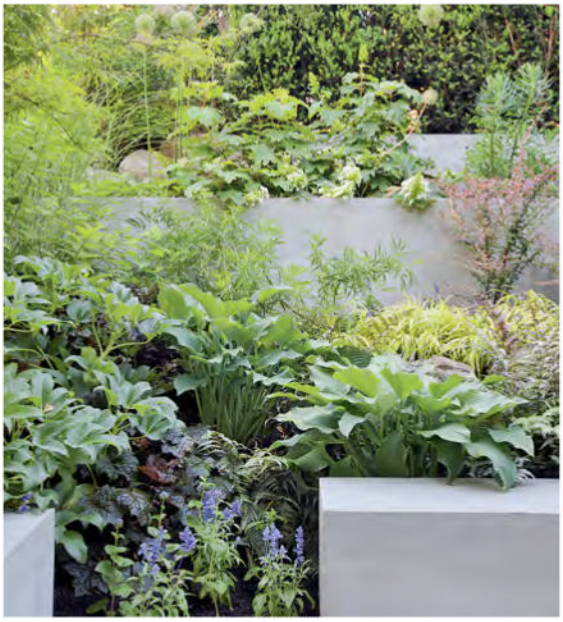
view from the sofa come sunset. "They'll often open up the living room window coverings when they entertain to animate the indoors at night," says Sarah.

The designer's careful eye for detail makes the outdoor space more than just an arresting entrance. Float down the front steps and you'll be taken by a tangle of large trees grounded by a rich palette of plants like chartreuse hostas and deep burgundy heucheras, which work with the hardscaping for a result that's truly distinct. "It's not about getting from A to B quickly," says Sarah. "It's about the experience."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A vibrant green magnolia tree livens up the sitting area, even before exposing its brilliant white blooms ("I try to have something catch the eye, no matter the season," says Sarah); deep purple heucheras conform to the garden's quiet colour palette and deliver plenty of texture; to reduce maintenance, the designer sought out shade-loving companion plants like hostas and Japanese forest grass, which flourish under the same conditions; Sarah chose silvery purple Japanese painted ferns to lend the garden a contemporary feel and pick up on the grey tone of the concrete ("There's a thread of consistency throughout," she says).

DESIGN, Haven Garden Design, havendesign.ca; **CONTRACTING,** Alchemy Construction; **HARDSCAPING,** Sutherland Concrete; outdoor **CHAIRS,** Patio and Home Direct.

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fashion FORWARD

A fashionista's walk-in closet gets a much-needed makeover.

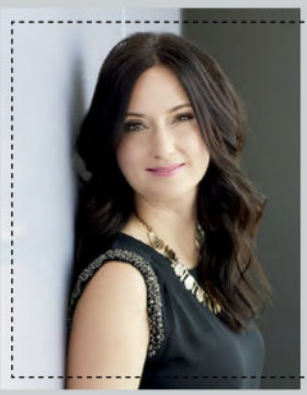
TEXT MARY LEVITSKI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH

What good is a *fabulous wardrobe* if you don't have somewhere fabulous to store it?

This question plagued a Toronto woman, whose dark, dysfunctional walk-in closet didn't jibe with her stylish attire. Though spacious, the frumpy pinstripe-wallpapered room was outfitted with only a few precarious rods, a single overhead shelf and some hooks, while an adjacent staircase created an awkward slanted nook at one end. To boot, the homeowner was not eager to part with her fashion funds. →

styleathome

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin curated her favourite hues in the **Beauti-Tone Paint Style at Home Country Colour Collection 2.**



OLDENBURG FD083-0

Erin loves how this blue-grey paint acts as a sophisticated neutral backdrop for any setting, from modern to traditional.

tip: Make an inexpensive piece of furniture appear custom by painting it the same shade as your wall. This coffee table was given an extra decorator's touch with the addition of a complementary colour: **Hudson FD099-0.**

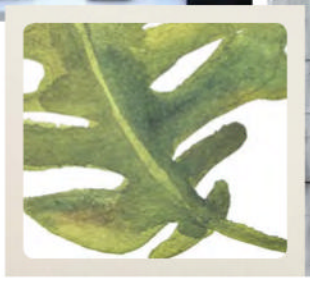
Beauti-Tone
CANADA'S COLOUR EXPERTS

Available exclusively at Home Hardware and Building Centre locations.
Actual paint colour may not be as shown. **beauti-tone.ca**

LUSH LAIR

Style at Home design editor Stacy Begg softened the dressing room's hardwood floor with an overdyed vintage rug. She layered it with a small sheepskin to ensure comfort underfoot (and under paw – the homeowner's Siamese cat approves).

BOTANICAL INTERIORS



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Bouclair HOME

Never one to shy away from a challenge, *Style at Home* design editor Stacy Begg came on board to polish this diamond in the rough.

Having stripped the room bare and freshened up the walls with warm white paint, Stacy got down to organizing. "A one-size-fits-all closet system wasn't going to work in this nook," she says. That's why the designer chose IKEA's versatile and budget-friendly Algot storage series, which is built on wall mounts that can be cut down to size. With new racks, shelves and some pullout baskets installed, Stacy added a sleek dresser, which stashes socks and skivvies and also serves as a primping station.

Energized with the homeowner's arsenal of ensembles, the room needed little in the way of decor. After using a

Fun DIY: GLAM UP A BASIC HAMPER WITH GOLD SPRAY PAINT.

BASKET CASE

Wire mesh pullout baskets keep bedsheets tidy yet visible. "Even if your home has a dedicated linen closet, it makes sense to store bedding in the room in which it's used," says Stacy.

PRIMPED OUT

Pretty yet functional accessories, including acrylic bracelet holders, a mirrored jewellery box and a plastic makeup sorter, transform the top of a simple dresser into a primping station. The inexpensive mirror hung above it completes the ersatz vanity, its chinoiserie-style frame enhancing the Asian feel of the accent wallpaper.

The Algot has a special place in IKEA Canada president Stefan Sjöstrand's heart and home: "I use it in my bedroom, mud room and garage. I'm proud that it was designed by Canadian Francis Cayouette."

Terra Virtue
BY HILLBERG & BERK
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HILLBERGANDBERK.COM

few leftover scraps of designer Asian-look wallpaper to turn the slanted wall above the nook from eyesore to eye-catching, Stacy finished the scene with a handful of accessories, including an overdyed vintage rug, a framed print and a cool clock. "It's easy to lose track of time in a space like this," says Stacy. We can't think of a better reason to arrive fashionably late!

Simply White OC-117 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Shouchikubai **WALLPAPER** in BP 4501, Farrow & Ball; Algot **CLOSET SYSTEM,** Nordli **DRESSER,** Silkeborg **RUG,** sheepskin Rens **RUG,** Algot **HAMPER** (frame painted), grey **STORAGE BOXES, CLOCK, HANGERS** (hooks painted), IKEA; **CLOTHING** (select pieces), **JEWELLERY, MAKEUP, MASK** (on mirror), H&M; Style at Home Collection **SHEET SETS,** Sears; glass **CLOCHE,** paper **DECORATION** (on task lamp), H&M Home; **CANDLES, BATH OIL,** Jo Malone London.

DETAIL ORIENTED

As every fashionista can attest, accessories can make or break the look. "The same goes for decor," says Stacy, who took care to spray-paint the steel hooks of the white hangers gold to complement the home-owner's apparel. (The hamper's steel frame got the same treatment.)

TAILOR-MADE

Each of this fashion lover's glamorous garments has a place of its own thanks to IKEA's super-affordable Algot system, which fits the awkward room like a glove. Everything from blouses and blazers to skirts and slacks is right at eye level on rods, while foldables (such as Ts and PJs) are stowed in pullout baskets below and off-season items are stashed in neatly stacked boxes overhead.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Love the look!

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JUNE 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

REINVENT YOUR STYLE

Colour, pattern, texture – these watchwords of decorating take centre stage this issue. Whether your penchant is for bold brights or natural neutrals, larger-than-life prints or small-scale motifs, these homes will inspire you to wake your senses, take some chances and make a change.

TEXT
CHRISTY WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY
BARRY CALHOUN

accent with colour

An Alberta couple transforms a neglected farmhouse into a dream home for their young family – and they do it all themselves.

Homeowner Amanda Robinson transformed the secondhand piano by covering it in grey paint, casually accessorizing it like the rest of the living room and softening its bench with a faux-sheepskin throw.

Delicate White D40-1 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Olympic Paints; Paris Grey **PIANO & BENCH PAINT,** Provence **STOOL PAINT,** Annie Sloan; Minwax White Oak **FLOOR STAIN,** The Home Depot; framed **PRINT, GLOBE,** HomeSense; faux-sheepskin **THROW,** IKEA.

When Amanda Robinson christened her blog Natural Mommie eight years ago, the name was a perfect weaving of her environment and a life-changing event. "My husband, Jason, and I were living in Grimshaw, a sleepy farming town in northern Alberta, and we'd just had our first son, Aidan [now eight years old]," she says. "His birth, along with our rural setting, inspired my blog on natural living and design." As Amanda's blog grew, so did her family (son Ethan, 6, was born exactly two years later), but their rural roots were soon supplanted by city life. "In 2012, Jason's work took us to West Edmonton, where we moved into a new build. We thought we'd love the convenience of the suburbs, but our hearts were in the country," she explains. They decided to leave the city behind the following year and found a listing for a tiny farmhouse in the tiny town of Spruce Grove on a not-so-tiny property. Amanda says, "We put in an offer and got it the same day!"

OPPOSITE The whitewashed living room features a charming mix of furniture styles. "I brought softness into the space with the upholstered pieces, while keeping a farmhouse vibe with the antique rocking chairs," says Amanda.

SOFA, COFFEE TABLE, SIDE TABLE, DRAPERY, STOOLS, RUG, TABLE LAMP, solid blue, Eiffel Tower and paisley-print **TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; Provence **DRESSER PAINT,** Annie Sloan; grey **THROW,** Top Knot Style.

ABOVE Durable slate tiles define the entryway in this open-concept space. Practical items in natural tones like the bench, mirror and coat rack are artfully arranged so everything looks pulled together.

FLOOR TILES, Lowe's.

LEFT Homeowners Jason and Amanda Robinson hang out in the bright living room with their sons, Ethan (left) and Aidan. The family's one-year-old Weimaraner, Tessie, is pictured at right.

The 800-square-foot two-bedroom bungalow was located on a wildly overgrown 20-acre lot with a barn; it hadn't been cared for since it was built in the '40s. "To be honest, it was a little shocking," says Amanda. "But we knew that going in, so we rolled up our sleeves and got started." Over the course of three months, the DIY-inclined couple ripped the house back to the studs, living on the property in their RV. "It was a bit cramped," says Amanda, "but the boys loved it, and luckily the weather was warm." They replaced everything from top to bottom, converted a laundry room into a bedroom (for Ethan), created an open-concept layout and added 400 square feet in the process. With their young sons and pets (Weimaraner Tessie and cat Nimble) in mind, Amanda chose tongue-and-groove pine planks for the floors, ceilings and walls. "I didn't want new drywall with two little boys and pets running around," she says. "It was the best design decision I ever made."

Amanda knew she wanted a light and bright space and conceived the decor with colour in mind. "This is still a really small house, so I stuck to a neutral palette for the base: white and cream with natural wood

ABOVE & RIGHT The kitchen epitomizes Amanda's love of pale backdrops punctuated with colour and natural tones. "I made the shelves out of wooden boards from our barn and left them unpainted to contrast all the white and to complement the butcher block counters," she says. Mismatched hardware picks up on the hits of blue throughout the home.

CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, SINK, STEPSTOOL (painted), **SHELF BRACKETS,** black **DRAWER PULLS,** IKEA; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** The Home Depot; **APPLIANCES,** Frigidaire Gallery; **STOOLS,** HomeSense; Provence **STEPSTOOL PAINT,** Annie Sloan; **RUNNER,** H&M Home; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Lowe's; **FAUCET,** Brizo; turquoise **CABINET PULLS,** Anthropologie.

Amanda and Jason knocked down walls to create an eat-in area that features a free-standing stove surrounded by stone-veneered walls and a thrift-store dining table and chairs proudly bearing a mismatched paint job. "I painted everything grey and then decided to paint all the chairs blue but got sidetracked after one," says Amanda. "It's fun and quirky as is, and the boys take turns sitting in the blue chair at dinnertime."

Stone **VENEER, CHANDELIER,** Lowe's; **STOVE,** Home Hardware; Behr Marina Isle 480E-3 **DOOR PAINT,** The Home Depot; Paris Grey **DINING TABLE & CHAIR PAINT,** Provence **DINING CHAIR PAINT,** Annie Sloan.

THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, TOP "The walls in Aidan's bedroom were in good shape, so we painted them and added pine planks to the ceiling," says Amanda. "I like the masculine look of the unpainted wood." The new blue dressers share the space with a thrift-store wicker chair, a yellow-painted hand-me-down stool and rope-hung shelves Amanda crafted from barnboard.

DRESSERS, DUVET COVER, RUG, IKEA; **DRAPERY,** HomeSense; Arles **STOOL PAINT,** Annie Sloan; **QUILT,** H&M Home; **TABLE LAMP,** Walmart.

BEST BLUES

HOMEOWNER AMANDA ROBINSON USED BLUE PAINT THROUGHOUT HER HOME TO LIVEN UP THE SOOTHING NEUTRAL PALETTE AND PROVIDE A LINK FROM ROOM TO ROOM. HERE ARE HER THREE FAVOURITE SHADES.

SEAFOAM BLUE + PROVENCE BLUE + OCEAN BLUE

BELOW & BOTTOM RIGHT A bright screen door frame hints at the pops of blue to be found inside the house. Amanda refinished a hand-me-down pine table in grey paint and repurposed it as an easy-to-access storage unit for firewood. Antique Canadian Pacific Railway lanterns found in the barn and on Kijiji layer in more colour and reference the surrounding rustic landscape.

SCREEN DOOR, Valspar Peacock Blue PN8060 **SCREEN DOOR PAINT,** Lowe's; Paris Grey **TABLE PAINT,** Annie Sloan.

tones throughout," she says. She livened up the scheme with pops of blue, but readily admits that while she loves the colour, she can't take credit for the watery shade. "Ethan wanted everything in his room swimming pool turquoise." They settled on a seafoam blue that's more soothing for a bedroom and then incorporated coordinating accents in every room – even on the front door. "If you keep the big things neutral and then add accents in a single shade, it makes everything seem effortlessly connected," says Amanda. That thread of connectivity can also be seen in Amanda's latest venture: a line of oversized knit throws. "I knit them all myself, and the latest hue is inspired by our place – it's robin's egg blue."

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

layer with texture

Transforming the kitchen meant replacing the dark granite countertops with honed quartz, spraying the dark wooden island white, adding extra cabinetry for a wall oven and panelled fridge and installing oversized wrought iron chandeliers. White cane-backed stools with grey leather seats match the chairs in the adjacent dining area.

DESIGN, JV Design Group, 778-855-4434; **CONTRACTING,** Battiston Homes; Pavilion Gray 242 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Cloud White OC-130 **MILLWORK PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **COUNTERTOPS,** Bordignon Marble & Granite; **WINE FRIDGE,** Monogram Appliances; **STOOLS** (customized), **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Restoration Hardware; **FLOORING** (throughout), B.C. Hardwood; **CHANDELIERS,** Chintz & Company; **CUTTING BOARDS, VASE,** The Cross Decor & Design.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY | **STYLING** ERIN CHOW & STEPHANIE VOGLER

Some people think interest can only be achieved by injecting a space with colour and pattern. Vancouver designer Joanna Vagelatos proves it can be done with tons of texture.

RIGHT The dining area's distressed wood table and cane-backed chairs offer a look that's both easy and elegant. "The dining table is stained and sealed so the children can run their hands along it without getting a sliver," says homeowner Tanis Hill. The simple rustic chandelier furthers the casual yet chic ambience. "It's less formal than a grand crystal chandelier, which is nice because this is an everyday eating area," says designer Joanna Vagelatos.

Pavilion Gray 242 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **DINING TABLE, TABLE RUNNER, TUREEN, TRAY, NAPKINS, FLATWARE, BUD VASES,** The Cross Decor & Design; **DINING CHAIRS** (customized), Restoration Hardware; **CHANDELIER,** Kathy Kuo Home.

The house was beautiful the way it was. "A lot of people thought we were crazy to change it," says homeowner Tanis Hill. "But it didn't suit our style." With sage green walls and an abundance of dark wood, the home was more heavy and masculine than Tanis and her husband liked. "Our aesthetic has always been light, airy and whimsical," she says.

The couple purchased the 11-year-old French Provincial-inspired abode four years ago, when they were expecting their third child. "We actually put in an offer from the hospital room," says Tanis. (Their children are now 7, 5 and 4.) In addition to light-filled wide open spaces and stunning architectural features, the 6,760-square-foot house in an established West Vancouver neighbourhood offered a convenient, tranquil setting ideal for raising a family – it's four blocks from the beach and close to community centres, and there's a babbling creek running through the backyard. "We picked this place for the children," says Tanis.

ABOVE & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT Elements like the muted-toned beanbag chairs, open shelves with burlap toy bins, subtle grey foam mats and a white-painted vintage piano provide the playroom with a lively style that's still sophisticated. Tanis (pictured here with her three children) inherited the loveseat from her grandmother.

LOVESEAT REFINISHING & UPHOLSTERY, RUG, dog **ARTWORK** by Hugo Guinness, framed **CHALKBOARD, URN,** bird **SCULPTURE,** The Cross Decor & Design; **BEANBAG CHAIRS,** RH Baby & Child; **TOY BINS,** 47th Heaven.

To update the interior and give it a bright, casual Rachel Ashwell-esque vibe, the homeowners enlisted Vancouver designer Joanna Vagelatos, who now runs JV Design Group but was with The Cross Decor & Design when she worked on the home. During the six-month cosmetic renovation, Joanna transformed the space by painting the walls and millwork in warm neutrals and replacing the Brazilian cherry hardwood floors with slightly greyed white oak. This created an airy backdrop for Tanis's chandelier collection ("I love chandeliers – I own 10 of them!" she says), as well as a cozy mix of natural fabrics and traditional and vintage-style furniture.

But it's the variety of textures and finishes that gives the home's white, grey and linen palette interest and warmth. "You don't need to add punches of colour for impact," says Joanna. For instance, a weathered wood table keeps the dining area invitingly informal; linen and lace give the master bedroom a romantic yet unfussy feel; the chic crystal chandelier and pretty vanity chair enhance the all-white ensuite's luxurious look; and custom-made burlap toy bins lend softness and uniformity to the playroom ("Plus, they won't scratch the millwork like hard woven ones would," says Joanna).

ABOVE The existing freestanding bathtub and marble floor in the ensuite were softened with fleur-de-lys lace café curtains and a linen-covered vanity chair.

Cloud White OC-130 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **VANITY CHAIR,** Restoration Hardware; **SIDE TABLE, TOWEL, BATH MAT, VASE,** The Cross Decor & Design; custom **CAFÉ CURTAINS,** Katharine Edwards Soft Furnishings.

RIGHT Bergère-style armchairs paired with a scroll-leg pedestal table and cowhide rug define the sitting area in the master bedroom.

ARMCHAIRS, Restoration Hardware; **SIDE TABLE, RUG, TOSS CUSHION, CLOCHE,** The Cross Decor & Design.

"A lot of people thought we were crazy to change the house, but it didn't suit our style. Our aesthetic has always been **LIGHT, AIRY** and **WHIMSICAL.**"

A white caned bed frame enhances the master bedroom's romantic French-inspired look. "It's a place where we could layer lots of linen and lace," says Tanis. An oversized chandelier suits the scale of the space and complements its delicate vintage vibe.

Cloud White OC-130 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BED FRAME, NIGHTSTANDS, BENCH, BEDSKIRT,** lavender **PILLOWCASES, TABLE LAMPS, LUMBAR CUSHION, THROW, VASES, BOOK,** gold olive-branch **WREATH** (on stand), The Cross Decor & Design; custom **DRAPERY,** Katharine Edwards Soft Furnishings; **DUVET COVER, EURO SHAMS,** RoseHill Bed & Bath; lace **PILLOWCASES,** Country Furniture; **CHANDELIER,** Kathy Kuo Home.

TEXTURE TACTICS

DESIGNER JOANNA VAGELATOS INCORPORATED DIFFERENT TACTILE ELEMENTS TO MAKE A DRAMATIC IMPACT IN THIS NEUTRAL HOME. HERE ARE THREE EXAMPLES.

CLASSIC CANE WEAVE

+

DELICATE LACE

+

WEATHERED WOOD

"Our home is four blocks from the **BEACH** and close to **COMMUNITY CENTRES,** and there's a **BABBLING CREEK** running through the backyard – we picked this place for the children."

ABOVE The interior's neutral palette continues to the backyard's lounge space, which is accessible from the kitchen and dining area via white-painted French doors. "There are three sets of French doors on the back of the house," says Tanis. "And when they're all opened up, they reveal a beautiful setting." Tanis and her husband love to spend time here relaxing.

Outdoor **SOFAS & COFFEE TABLE,** striped **TOSS CUSHION,** Restoration Hardware; outdoor **RUG,** floral **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROWS,** copper **BUCKET, PLANTER,** The Cross Decor & Design; **BASKET,** Country Furniture.

Indeed, the soothing space was decorated without ignoring practicality. "We did everything with the children in mind," says Tanis. From the virtually indestructible leather covering the kitchen island stools to the stunning unadorned floor-to-ceiling windows ("I don't have to worry about kids and cords," says Tanis) to the durable hardwood floors, the house is a veritable indoor playground. "Once the makeover was complete, the kids got on their plastic toy cars and ripped around the rooms – it was their way of christening the place," she says.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

ABOVE One of Tanis's children takes a break from playing outdoors.

LEFT & BELOW The rustic stone fireplace, driftwood-toned coffee table and resin wicker sofas with linen-hued cushions give the covered lounge area an indoor-outdoor feel. Toss cushions and throws add to the cozy vibe.

Outdoor **SIDE TABLE, PENDANT LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware; faux-antler **WREATH,** The Cross Decor & Design.

In the radiant living room of this Toronto Victorian, designer Robyn Rider layered fresh prints that bring to mind the beach. The bold botanical armchair fabric takes centre stage, while the rug and drapery's subtle patterns play supporting roles. "Too much pattern can make a space feel cluttered and less sophisticated," warns Robyn.

DESIGN, Robyn Madeline Interiors, robynmadeline.com; **ARCHITECTURE,** Spragge + Company Architects; **CONTRACTING,** Mooredale Contracting; Intense White OC-51 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **SOFA, ARMCHAIR UPHOLSTERY,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **SOFA FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design; **ARMCHAIR FABRIC,** Robert Allen; **COFFEE TABLE,** Boo Boo & Lefty; custom **MANTEL,** National Fireplaces; All White 2005 **FIREPLACE MANTEL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **FLOORING** (throughout), Traditional Hardwood Flooring; custom **RUG,** Allan Rug Co.; **ARTWORK,** Felicia Norris Bartlett; **MIRROR,** L'Atelier; **GINGER JARS,** lidded **CANISTER,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

play up pattern

Designer Robyn Rider's use of juicy prints and vivid hues ensures there's never a dull moment in this Palm Beach-inspired Victorian home.

TEXT IRIS BENAROIA

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY BRANDFORD

STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

MUCH LIKE PEOPLE, houses have personalities. Some homes – let's call them the introverts – conjure up cool elegance. Others are like peacocks: a bold bunch of extroverts boasting pattern and colour.

The latter describes this 2,400-square-foot four-bedroom Victorian semi in Toronto's Summerhill neighbourhood. Designed by Robyn Rider of Robyn Madeline Interiors, the cheery home – with its eye-catching prints in blue and white and fresh coral and green accents – takes its cues from Palm Beach, Fla., which is meaningful to the young family of three living here. "We've been visiting Palm Beach for the last 15 years," says one of the homeowners.

Not just bold and bright, the design has all the hallmarks of that eclectic coastal style, from the crisp white walls to the mix of natural materials, such as linen and bamboo, as well as quirky touches like the artichoke lamp and chinoiserie plant pots.

It's exactly what the homeowners wanted. They first spotted Robyn's work on Instagram and immediately connected with her style, exemplified in her gallery of lively rooms filled with florals, stripes and Greek key motifs that delightfully pop against neutral backdrops. "Robyn's tastes are very similar to ours," says the husband, who admits he prefers a brighter palette than his wife does – "I know, it's opposite of the norm," he adds with a laugh. But luckily, she didn't need much convincing, and the couple called on the designer to start as soon as possible.

When Robyn arrived on the scene, the architect and contractor had already removed a structural wall that had split the back of the house into two skinny, awkward rooms. The new layout allowed for an open-flow kitchen with an eat-in area, a petite powder room and a comfy family room (not shown). The wall that divides the back of the house from the front (with its living room and entryway) stayed intact, and the kitchen's added Dutch door, painted a snappy navy blue, connects the two areas.

Such separation is surprising, considering the trend is to leave no wall standing, keeping a communal space as open as possible. But this family needed function, says Robyn. The homeowners requested the Dutch door (split horizontally, so the top half can open while the bottom stays fixed) to keep their one-year-old daughter contained. "It's much nicer than an unsightly baby gate," says Robyn.

This division also allows the house to have two moods: more formal in the front (think eclectic parlour) and relaxed and kid-friendly at the back (from the eat-in area's hard-wearing banquette to the slipcovered sofa in the family room). What joins the two spaces, though, is the joyful palette. "It's the first thing you notice when you walk in the house," says Robyn, referring to the living room and its floral-patterned armchairs.

ABOVE, LEFT Good decor is a deft interplay of the seemingly incompatible: Here in the entryway, an acrylic waterfall console, leopard-print X-bench and chinoiserie umbrella stand are the perfect companions.

CONSOLE, CB2; Schumacher **BENCH FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.; **BENCH UPHOLSTERY,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **CRICKET CAGE,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

ABOVE, RIGHT "It's a small space, so it can take it," says Robyn of going for drama in the petite powder room.

Thibaut **WALLPAPER,** Kravet Canada; **PEDESTAL SINK, FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre; **MIRROR,** Boo Boo & Lefty.

A lively tableau under the living room's original stained glass window features the glitz and glamour associated with Hollywood Regency decor, including a gilded artichoke table lamp, a lacquered desk, a retro bamboo chair and a chinoiserie pot.

DESK, TABLE LAMP, Boo Boo & Lefty; vintage **DESK CHAIR,** MacFab Home; solid **DRAPERY FABRICS,** Threadcount Textile & Design; Schumacher **DRAPERY TRIM & TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.; **DRAPERY & TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Your Sweet Home.

A family with lots of friends calls for an eat-in area with a big banquette. At 12 feet long, this one easily seats a crowd.

All White 2005 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **DINING TABLE,** Restoration Hardware; **DINING CHAIRS,** Vintage Fine Objects; custom **BANQUETTE,** Barlow Cabinet Works; **BANQUETTE & DRAPERY FABRICS,** solid coral and geometric-print **TOSS CUSHION FABRICS,** Threadcount Textile & Design; **BANQUETTE UPHOLSTERY,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **DRAPERY & TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Your Sweet Home; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Boo Boo & Lefty; Thibaut chinoiserie **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; **TRANSFERWARE,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

PERFECT PATTERNS

DESIGNER ROBYN RIDER USED DISPARATE PRINTS TO MAKE A DAZZLING DISPLAY. HERE ARE THREE SHE MIXED TOGETHER.

LOVELY LEOPARD

+

BRIGHT BOTANICAL

+

CHIC CHINOISERIE

ABOVE "Blue and white is one of my favourite colour combinations," says Robyn (pictured). "It's so fresh and happy."

LEFT & BELOW "White kitchens never go out of style," says one of the homeowners of the choice to go classic with crown moulding, Caesarstone countertops and a Calacatta marble subway tile backsplash. A Dutch door, made out of two custom ones, divides the front of the house from the back.

All White 2005 **WALL & CABINETRY PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; custom **CABINETRY,** Barlow Cabinet Works; **COUNTERTOPS,** Caesarstone Canada; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Saltillo Imports; **APPLIANCES,** Hudson's Bay; custom **DOORS,** Royal Door; Old Navy 2063-10 **DOOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **STOOLS,** Structube; **FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Ginger's; **POT** (with orchids), Boo Boo & Lefty; **GINGER JARS,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

But she made sure to use pattern sparingly, so the scheme can be easily switched up should the homeowners tire of it. "The room's foil is decidedly neutral. Reupholster the chairs and change the toss cushions, and you have a whole new look," says Robyn.

Tastes evolve, after all, and what's important in a home is that it speaks to its inhabitants. And Robyn is sure that, like her, these homeowners will always gravitate to rooms that aren't stuffy. Last year, they hosted a boisterous party during the NHL playoffs: "We had people all over: on the sofa in the family room, on the eat-in area's banquette, at the kitchen island and in the backyard – you can see the TV from there," recalls one of the homeowners, who says it was truly memorable for everyone in attendance. Happy houses have that effect on people.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

MILK *MADE*

RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHY
IMEN MCDONNELL

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Sweet Farmer
CHEESE DANISH
With Elder-flower Glaze

We all know the goodness to be found in a glass of fresh milk, but when *The Farmette Cookbook* by blogger Imen McDonnell (who lives a modern fairy tale, happily married to an Irish farmer) recently crossed the *Style at Home* desks, we discovered we also have a passionate desire for all things made with pure dairy ingredients – danishes, drinks, pies and more.

SWEET FARMER CHEESE DANISH WITH ELDERFLOWER GLAZE

PREP & COOK TIME **6 HOURS** | MAKES **4 PASTRIES**

Pastry

1 cup sour cream
½ cup unsalted butter
½ cup granulated sugar
1 tsp salt
4 tsp (two 7-g packets) fast-acting instant dry yeast
½ cup warm water
2 eggs, lightly beaten
4 cups all-purpose flour

Filling

1 cup ricotta cheese
¾ cup granulated sugar
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
Pinch of salt

Glaze

2½ cups icing sugar, sifted
¼ cup elderflower cordial
Fresh elderflowers, for garnish

Place the sour cream, butter, sugar and salt in a small saucepan over low heat; stir until the butter is melted and the sugar is dissolved. Remove the pan from the heat; let cool to room temperature.

In a large mixing bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warm water and let sit for 10 minutes. Add the sour cream mixture, eggs and flour; mix to form a very soft dough. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 4 hours or up to overnight.

Using an electric mixer, beat together the ricotta, sugar, egg, vanilla and salt in a large mixing bowl until well combined.

Place the dough on a clean work surface dusted with flour. Knead 6 or 7 times, just until smooth and pliable. Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces and roll each piece into a 12" x 8" rectangle.

Spread one-quarter of the filling on each piece of dough. Starting at one of the long sides, roll up the dough jelly-roll style. Pinch the seams and ends together to seal in the filling. Place the pastries seam-side down on a buttered baking sheet and cut slits in the top of each one with a knife. Cover the baking sheet with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm draft-free place for about 1 hour, until the pastries have doubled in size.

Heat the oven to 375°F. Bake the pastries for 20 to 25 minutes, until golden. Remove from the oven and transfer to wire racks to cool.

Place the icing sugar in a large bowl. Whisk in the elderflower cordial a little at a time, until a glaze forms. Drizzle over the cooled danishes, then sprinkle with elderflowers and serve.

IRISH CREAM

PREP & COOK TIME **20 MINUTES** | MAKES **3 CUPS**

1 cup heavy cream, divided
1 tsp instant coffee granules
½ tsp cocoa powder
1¾ cups sweetened condensed milk
¾ cup Irish whiskey
1 tsp pure vanilla extract

In a medium mixing bowl, combine 1 tablespoon of the cream with the coffee and cocoa powder to make a smooth paste. Slowly add the remaining cream, whisking constantly, until the mixture is smooth. Add the condensed milk, whiskey and vanilla; stir to combine.

Pour the mixture into a 24-ounce jar and keep refrigerated until ready to serve. (The mixture will keep for up to two weeks.) To serve, pour the cream into a tumbler filled with ice.

Change the way you see salad.

Renée's Gourmet Dressing

LAVONDA'S BUTTERMILK PIE

PREP & COOK TIME **2 HOURS** | MAKES **ONE 9" PIE**

Crust

¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
Scant ½ cup superfine sugar
1 small egg
4 drops pure vanilla extract
1¼ cups all-purpose flour

Filling

3 eggs
1½ cups granulated sugar, plus more for dusting
½ cup unsalted butter, melted and cooled
⅓ cup buttermilk
1 tbsp all-purpose flour
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
Pinch salt

In a large mixing bowl, lightly blend the butter and sugar with a wooden spoon until light and creamy. Add the egg and vanilla and mix until combined. Add the flour and mix to a paste, just until the dough comes away cleanly from the bowl. Be careful not to overmix or the pastry will become elastic and doughy. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes or (even better) overnight.

Before using, gently knead the dough, taking care that it remains cold and firm. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough into a ⅛"-thick sheet.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a 9" pie plate with the dough.

Using an electric mixer, blend the eggs, sugar, butter, buttermilk, flour, vanilla and salt in a large bowl. Pour the mixture into the unbaked pie shell. Lightly dust a bit more sugar over the top and bake for 1 hour, or until the pie is firm and golden on top. Remove from the oven and allow to cool before serving.

To see more of Imen McDonnell's delicious recipes, check out The Farmette Cookbook *(Roost Books, $40).*

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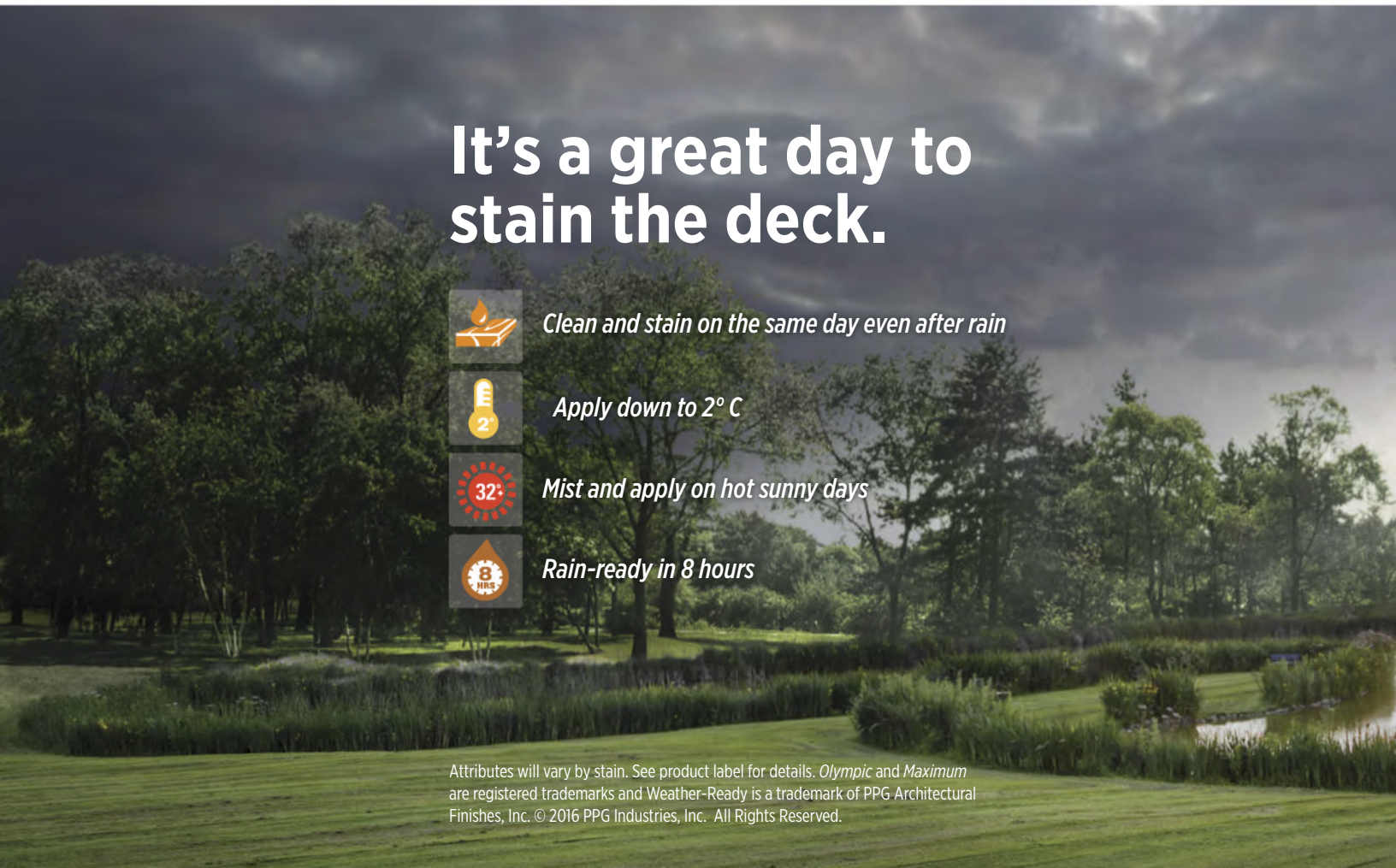

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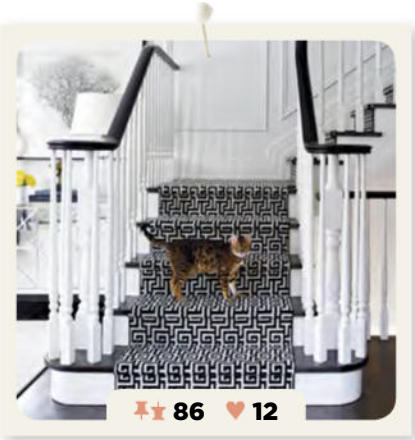

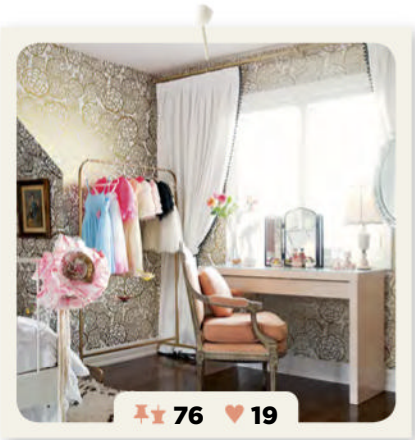

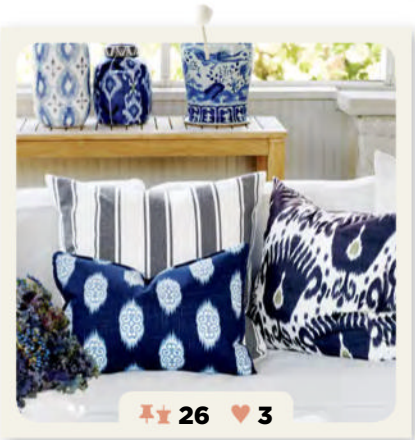

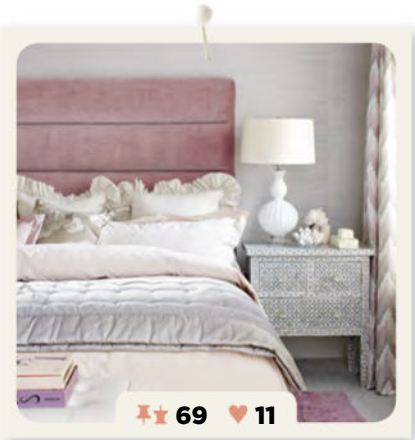

This month it's all about: FABULOUS DECOR IDEAS

The key to making a space stand out is quite simple: Decorate with dedication. Don't be afraid to experiment with daring patterns or an unconventional colour palette, because the best results often come from letting your creative side shine.

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